

# Continental Marine

A large amphibious tank, likely an LVT-7, is shown from a high-angle perspective as it moves through choppy, sunlit water. The tank's deck is visible, featuring various equipment, including a large orange tarp and several coiled ropes. The tank's bow is cutting through the water, creating a massive, white, turbulent wake that dominates the foreground and right side of the frame. The sky is bright, and the water's surface is covered in small, sunlit ripples.

Fall 2002

Vol. 26, No. 3

**AOT**

**CAX 7/8**

**Allied Sabre**

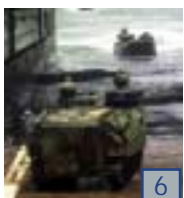
**MEDCEUR 02**



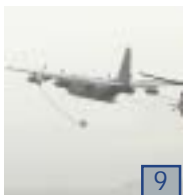
## Features



**N.C.** – HMH-772 receives Special Operations Capable designation before departing with the 24th MEU.



**N.C.** – Reserves comprise Marine Forces UNITAS 43-02 for South American Deployment.



**N.C.** – VMGR-252 and 452 keep the 22nd MEU supplied and ready.



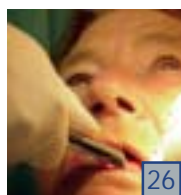
**Calif.** – 7,500 + Reserve Marines and sailors converge on 29 Palms for CAX 7/8.



**Estonia** – Marines and sailors take part in the crisis management exercise, MEDCEUR '02.



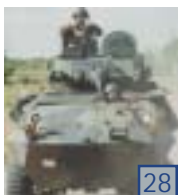
**Calif.** – 4th AAB transports Marines of 2nd Bn., 24th Marines to and from the shore of Red Beach, Camp Pendleton, while conducting amphibious operation exercises during Amphibious Orientation Training 2002.



**Texas** – 4th Dental and Medical Bns. provide care along Texas border as part of Operation Lone Star.



**N.M.** – MWSS 471, Det. B, builds houses on a Navajo reservation during Operation Footprint.



**Canada** – Co. D, 4th LAR travels north to train with the Royal Qukha Rifles and Canadian Western Land Force.

## On the Covers



**Front:** N.C. – An AAV leaves the well deck of the USS Portland during UNITAS workups at Camp Lejeune. Photo by Sgt. Sam Kille



**Back:** Calif. – Marines from 3rd Bn., 23 Marines, begin their assault on Range 400 at CAX 7-02. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

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### Marine Forces Reserve

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# MARFORRES

COMMAND PAGE

**Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve**

## *Congratulations and Thanks*

The title to this piece says it all. As we wrap up fiscal year 2002, I want to personally thank the men and women of Marine Forces Reserve, and to extend my congratulations. We had a very good year in many notable respects.

Let's start with our primary mission – mobilization. During the course of this year, we sent over 4,000 Marines and Sailors to Gain- ing Force Commanders around the globe. From Kansas City to Kandahar and all points in between, we provided high quality units and individual augmentees who made a difference. We sent Marines to serve in U.S. Central Command, both inside and outside the Continental United States. Some deployed to Afghanistan, some are still serving in Bahrain and Kuwait. Some are deployed with Marine Expeditionary Units around the world. We sent Marines to reinforce U.S. European Command and its Marine Component. Others went to U.S. Pacific Command and Marine Forces Pacific for duty in that vital theater. The Marines and Sailors of two infantry battalions have served as a part of II Marine Expeditionary Force – one battalion on each coast. Others are currently deployed as a Special Purpose MAGTF conducting UNITAS-02. A succession of infantry platoons from Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Marines will go down in history for their great work providing security to the Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

These Marines and their families, and those unsung heroes who supported and sustained them, proved the worth and importance of Marine Forces Reserve. Each of us needs to follow their example, and stay ready to contribute when and where we are needed.

The second area that makes me proud and thankful is the great job done by our Force in improving our safety record. Last year's record wasn't bad, but this year's was better. Every loss is hard to take, but we had fewer this year – seven SMCR



Marines (and no active duty Marines) lost their lives in accidents or mishaps, compared to 12 last year. Our automobile mishaps were down as well: one occurred on-duty and 10 off-duty this year, as compared to five and 23 last year. This is a tremendous improvement, and represents great work by all hands. You have been taking care of yourselves, and each other. Our efforts to improve seat belt use, to reduce speeding, driving under the influence, and driving when fatigued are all paying off. We have made great strides in reducing the number and usage of 15-pax vans, and by next year we will have eliminated them from our fleet. PLEASE – KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK IN THIS VITAL AREA. BE ASSURED –

MARFORRES HEADQUARTERS WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU.

In the area of aviation safety, the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing won the prestigious CNO Readiness Through Safety Award for the eighth time and the Admiral James S. Russell award for the fifth time. This is an achievement unprecedented in Marine aviation.

Training and readiness enhancement has been another strong area for the Marine Corps Reserve in FY 02. You have done great work in assessing needed improvements in force protection at our Training Centers around the country, and those improvements are starting to be made. You have greatly improved our ability to pack and ship our equipment to any port of embarkation. Our supply, maintenance and personnel readiness have all improved, and you have continued to train and educate yourselves. Six hundred NCOs and Staff NCOs received certificates from the Marine Corps University for Professional Military Education at Camp Crowder, Mo. Two Combined Arms Exercises were completed successfully, safely and under budget at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Five thou-

# MARFORRES

Command Page

sand Marines and Sailors learned to live in fight in the harsh desert environment.

Amphibious Orientation Training was the most successful in my memory. An entire squadron of amphibious ships, the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, plus two destroyers and a submarine, supported MAGTF 24 in grand style. The last kudo goes to our Family Readiness effort. We were featured in Good Sense magazine. Throughout the Force, Marine leaders, Key Volunteers, members of the Peacetime Wartime Support Teams advanced the cause of helping MarForRes families prepare for and survive deployments. We

still have work to do, but your efforts have helped immeasurably. Stronger families make a stronger Force.

We have another eventful year ahead. None of us knows for sure what this year will bring. I am confident that we are better prepared to face any challenge because of your efforts and successes. So I will end this column where it started. Thank you, and congratulations on a great year. Stay ready.



## Sgt. Maj. Dixon speaks to Force

Marines and Sailors of the Force, This is my first opportunity to correspond with you since my assignment as the Force Sergeant Major. I have been able to visit with some of you and look forward to visiting many more in the future. One thing has been consistent with every unit that I have visited—that is the professionalism and dedication of the Marines and Sailors. My first impression is that we have a truly outstanding Force that the Marine Corps and our country can be proud of.

One of the concerns that I hear from many of the Marines that I talk to is about promotions. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about enlisted promotions, particularly Staff Non-Commissioned Officer promotions. Reserve SNCO promotion allocations are determined using a total force process. The fundamental concept of the process is SMCR billet requirements minus the number of SMCR Marines actively participating equal the number of promotion allocations. Simply, what that means is that promotion allocations are based on the number of billet vacancies and projected vacancies. Promotion allocations are small and therefore competition for promotion is tough.

Marines need to do everything they can to ensure they are competitive for promotion. One thing is completion of the appropriate level PME. Believe it or not, some Marines come into the promotion zone without having completed the non-resident PME for their grade. The bottom line there is that they are not considered fully qualified by the promotion board. While it is not a requirement, completion of the resident PME will enhance your opportunity for selection.

One issue that is affecting promotion allocations are Marines “twice failed of selection”, or 2P. Marines twice failed of selection remaining in their billets stagnate promotion opportunities for junior Marines since allocations are based on vacant billets starting at the top. MFR commanders have the authority to move 2P Marines to the IRR, which would help to create vacancies and greater promotion opportunities in otherwise full ranks. Marines moving to the IRR retain eligibility for retirement through participation opportunities such as MTUs and PME. This



comes down to the right thing to do for the Force.

I would like to echo something that the Commander of Marine Forces Reserve, Lt.Gen. McCarthy said recently. That is that we have to be ready all the time. When the call comes to mobilize is not the time to start. Readiness must be a continual process that cannot be put off until the last minute. Continue to prepare yourself and your family.



### New Commanding General takes the helm at 4th Marine Division

Cpl. Jeff Hawk

4th Marine Division Public Affairs

**NEW ORLEANS** – Major General Jack A. Davis relinquished command of the 4th Marine Division to Brig. Gen. John J. McCarthy during a ceremony Aug. 10 at the Naval Support Activity, presided over by Lt. Gen. E. M. Bedard, deputy commandant of the Marine Corps for plans, policies and operations.

“This is the most ready this division has been since the 1940s,” said Bedard. Bedard praised Davis for his leadership during the largest mobilization of Marines since Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Davis activated two reserve battalions and elements of a third in support of the Global War on Terrorism during his two-year assignment. He also pushed hard for a rapid implementation of the Marine Corps Martial Arts program and stewarded several initiatives to enhance the structure and training of reserve reconnaissance Marines, cited Bedard.

The opportunity to lead a division with such a distinguished legacy was “an honor” and “very humbling,” said Davis. He attributed the unit’s success in part to the support of his staff and dedication of the Marines and sailors under his command. “When you’ve got 22,772 Marines and sailors in 106 locations, you’ve got to have a lot of help,” said Davis. Addressing his troops for a final time, Davis told them they were “the best the Marine Corps has to offer.”

“Our enemies need to fear them. They can fight,” he told an audience of sailors, Marines and

dignitaries.

Davis now assumes new duties as the vice commander for U.S. Marine Forces, Atlantic, headquartered in Norfolk, Va.

His successor, Brig. Gen. McCarthy, comes to his new command after a recent five-month tour of duty at the U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla., where he helped oversee the Joint Operations Center as it expanded operations for the Global War on Terrorism. McCarthy was selected for major general and is currently awaiting Senate confirmation. He previously served as the

assistant division commander for the 4th Marine Division and brings with him a field-oriented leadership style.

“Don’t expect me to spend a lot of time around the command center when I come to the field,” said McCarthy in a pre-ceremony interview. “I’ll spend a lot of time meeting and motivating young Marines. When I come to an exercise, I want to shake hands with everyone I can.”

McCarthy addressed the daunting task ahead of him during the ceremony.

“We are at war. There could not be a more challenging time to take this assignment,” he said.

Comprised of more than 20,000 Marines drilling at 106 sites nationwide, the 4th Marine Division is the largest of the Marine Corps’ four divisions. The Division supports the Marine Forces Reserve by training and equipping Marines to support the active duty units of the Marine Corps whenever they are needed. Members of the Marine Forces Reserve are an important part of the Total Force that helps the Marine Corps expand its role rapidly during national emergencies. They provide a ready pool of well-trained, well-equipped personnel who can be mobilized quickly without the need for lengthy basic training.



Cpl. Jeff Hawk

**Maj. Gen. Jack A. Davis, left, passes the 4th Marine Division battle colors to Brig. Gen. John J. McCarthy as Sgt. Maj. Anthony A. Cruz salutes during the change of command ceremony, here, Aug. 10.**



# MARFORRES

News Line

## UNITAS 43-02 underway.....



Reserve Lance Cpl. Robert Young, an infantryman with 3rd Plt., MARFOR UNITAS, departs the USS Portland (LSD-37) to board a Colombian landing craft unit, Aug. 28. The training was part of the amphibious phase of UNITAS 43-02, an annual multi-national exercise aimed at promoting democracy and stability in Latin America.



Reserve Cpl. Richard Meehan, Wpns. Plt., MARFOR UNITAS, provides instructions to a Colombian Naval Academy Cadet as he fires the M-249 SAW in Covenas, Colombia, Aug. 29.



Peruvian Marine Commandos fast rope from a Peruvian helicopter to seize a hill top overlooking the beach at Salinas Bay, Peru, Sept. 18.

Reserve Cpl. Andrew Hunsicker, an amphibious assault vehicle crewman with Marine Forces UNITAS, relaxes at the beach in Aruba, Aug. 18.



Navy JO1 Phil Beaufort

Reserve Cpl. Jason Burket of New Braunfels, Texas, a mortarman with Wpns. Plt., MARFOR UNITAS, positions his 81mm mortar after landing on the beach during an amphibious exercise at Jaramijo, Ecuador, Sept. 10.



Staff Sgt. Sam Kille



# MARFORRES

News Line

## *24th MEU's reserve squadron sets example for rest of Reserves*

Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

24th MEU, Public Affairs

### **MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER, N.C.**

When the 24<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) received its Special Operations Capable (SOC) designation in early July some of the Marines in the Aviation Combat Element (ACE) set a new precedent for the Marine Corps Reserves.

After receiving their activation order and attaching to the MEU, the Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 (HMH-772), from Willow Grove, Pa., were among the first reserve squadrons in the Marine Corps to receive the coveted Special Operations Capable designation.

The squadron was activated on January 28 and integrated its CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters into Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 (HMM-263), the MEU's composite aviation squadron.



Sgt. Brian P. Reed

Two CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters from HMH-772 now attached to HMM-263, the 24th MEU's ACE, provide transportation and close air support for Marines from the Battalion Landing Team during a long-range raid to Ft. Benning, Ga.

"After our activation, we arrived at New River on February 19 and hit the ground running," said Lt. Col. James C. Garman, commanding officer, HMH-772. "We were involved in every exercise of the predeployment training program."

Since HMH-772 is a reserve squadron, some people may have expected them to be a step behind, but that was not the case said Garman.

"We came in here with a lot of seniority and experience," said Garman. "In our squadron we have someone, somewhere, who has been there through

everything that has happened since Desert Storm. With that experience and our capabilities, our spool up time was minimal. We just needed a short amount of time to adjust to the MEU."

"These guys are well-led, well-trained, and came in here with the right mindset," added Lt. Col. John C. Kennedy, commanding officer, HMM-263. "They have the enthusiasm and desire to do well."

The need for just a short period of adjustment was due in part to the fact that reserve Marines go through the same training as their active duty counterparts.

"All reserve units have the same of level of readiness as the active duty," said Garman.

"We just do our training at a different pace."

"I feel our integration went well," said Kennedy. "They came in here ready to go and with the want to do, all we had to do was shake out a few cobwebs. Besides, our pace was so fast they didn't have time to complain even if they wanted too."

Another factor that made the adjustment to the MEU smooth was the fact that the Marines of HMH-772 are very happy to be here. "Our motivation level is very high right now," said Garman. "Our people want to be here. A lot of them left behind jobs and are proud to show the reserves are trained, capable and ready to answer the call."

"Unfortunately the MEU is only taking about 100 Marines from our squadron on the deployment with them, so there are a few Marines who will be here at New River that are disappointed not to be going," said Garman.

Even though not all of the squadron is stepping off with the MEU in late August, the ones that are may be setting the example for all Marine Reserve units to follow.

"These guys have done exactly what reserve Marines are supposed to do," said Kennedy. "They came in and executed as briefed. I think they are great advertisement for the reserve program."

CM

### Civil Affairs Group's mission in Kosovo continues

Master Sgt. Phil Mehninger

Marine Forces Europe

**GNJILANE, Kosovo** — Peace in the Kosovo region has been stable in the last several years thanks to the hard work and efforts of NATO and other security forces in the area. The scars of the war remain evident, however, people of the region continue to strive for a better life.

Helping the victims of the Kosovo war is where a group of 10 civil affairs Marines make their livelihood. These Marines weave in and out of the minute and often complex problems of citizens living in a post war culture. The Marines belong to the 3rd Civil Affairs Group located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and are midway through their 6-month tour.

Life in Kosovo is much better now than it was 4 years ago when Slobodan Milosovic's Serbian military and police forces clashed with Kosovar Albanian forces resulting in the deaths of more than 1,500 Kosovar Albanians. The fighting also forced more than 400,000 people from their homes.

GySgt. Frank Torres, NCOIC of the 3rd CAG detachment, works for the Civil-Military Coordination Center. The center's mission is to facilitate civil affairs coordination between KFOR, governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and the local populace in Multinational Brigade East - the U.S. sector.

A former active-duty mortarman working civil affairs for the last 17 years, Torres is assigned to Task Force Falcon and operates from Camp Monteith in the U.S. sector. A seasoned veteran in the field of civil affairs, the 41-year-old intermingles with the local population of Gnjilane (Albanian spelling) or Gjilan (Serbian spelling) where he maintains a sepa-

rate office.

His office is a clearinghouse of concerns from the local citizenry. The town of nearly 100,000 is predominantly ethnic Albanian (90%) with small portions of Serbians and Romas or Gypsies completing the population. Although anyone can walk into Torres's office any time with any problem, people comprising the ethnic minorities visit him most often.

When the CAG Marines receive a concern, they funnel it to the proper local agency.

The prominent problem in the area recently has been the lack of electricity. After receiving supplemental funding from the European Union for the last several years the electric companies are now forced to be self-sufficient and to collect monies owed them. People who have not paid their bills have had their electricity turned off. "Many citizens have not paid for electricity for nearly three years," said Torres. Dig a little deeper in this situation and one can understand the recent stream of complaints.

The electric companies are an easy target for discrimination by Serbians because ethnic Albanians own the power companies. The Serbians claim that only their electricity is being turned off and not the houses belonging to ethnic Albanians with the same problem.

This complaint was brought forward and Torres and his team went to work. "We went out to talk with the director of the electric company and she stated 'that's not the case at all,'" said Torres. She showed us a list of power cutoffs and there were ethnic Albanians on the list."

The electricity dispute is not likely to go away anytime soon, Torres added. A recent storm damaged one of

the two power plants in the local area and there are no monies to fix the broken one.

Helping the local citizenry is something the CAG Marines do with pleasure. They are constantly on the lookout for the most needy, trying to assist in any way possible. They recently delivered a box of school supplies, food, and bags of clothing to needy children. The six children cannot attend school and are part of a 10-member household living in a single room dwelling. The father cannot get a job because of his age and ethnicity. The Marines and interpreters were met with racing eyes and vigorous smiles. "If you can make a kid smile, it makes your day right there," said Torres.

Another mission of the CAG Marines is to help facilitate the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, said LtCol. Mike Drake, Officer in Charge, 3rd CAG detachment. During 2002, nearly 300 persons have returned to their houses. Progress is being made however, Drake said, there is a high unemployment rate making it unattractive for others to return.

It is estimated that 300,000 displaced refugees could return to Kosovo from neighboring countries. If this happens, Drake said, the infrastructure and economy would not be able to support their return.

The 3rd CAG Marines will be replaced by a detachment from the 4th CAG near the end of the summer. No one knows for sure how long the CAG Marines will remain in Kosovo.

"Until there is no longer a need for coordination between assets or organizations, someone like us will be here," said Drake.



# MARFORRES

News Line

## VMGR 252 AND 452 KEEP THE 22ND MEU SUPPLIED AND READY

Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Milks

22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit Public Affairs

### CENTRAL COMMAND AREA OF OPERATIONS –

Throughout history, many military disasters have been preceded by a break, and sometimes just a kink, in a unit's supply chain. To

ensure this doesn't happen to its forward-deployed Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs), the Marine Corps forward deploys KC130 Hercules transport aircraft in the MEUs' areas of operation to keep them supplied.

Since its departure from North Carolina in late February, the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), has benefited from the hard work and tireless efforts of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadrons (VMGR) 252 and 452.

The units' aircraft are used to perform aerial refueling of the MEU's AV8B Harrier II attack aircraft and CH53E Super Stallion helicopters, bring in much-needed supplies and spare parts, and transport personnel to and from the MEU's regional location.

These units, which are pre-positioned at key airfields to provide timely support to the 22d MEU (SOC), represent the Marine Corps active duty and reserve air components, and are a key element in the MEU's success.

Activated in June 1928, VMGR-252 "Otis" has a long and storied past. During its 74 years, VMGR-252 has flown throughout the skies above Europe, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and the Middle East in support of training exercises, combat operations, and humanitarian relief efforts.

The squadron set a turbo prop transport altitude record in 1964 when it ascended to 46,000 feet during a flight, and the next year conducted the first aerial refueling of a CH-3 helicopter. In 1990, a squadron KC130 crew flew the first night vision goggle landing in Marine Corps history.



Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Milks

**CH53E Super Stallions from HMM-261 (Rein), the ACE of the 22nd MEU (SOC), pull in behind a KC-130 from VMGR-452 to execute an aerial refueling during a long range helicopter raid in Djibouti.**

VMGR-252 currently flies the KC130F and R models Hercules aircraft, and to date, has logged more than 370,000 class-A mishap free flight hours.

Just as VMGR-252 is the oldest continuously active Marine Corps squadron, the VMGR-452 "Yankees" is one of its youngest.

The reserve squadron's colors were unfurled in September 1988 and has maintained a robust training and operational tempo supporting active and reserve Marine forces. VMGR-452, which flies the KC130T, operates from Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York and is staffed by reserve Marines and a contingent of active duty service members.

With most of its reserve squadron members natives or current residents of New York, the current deployment means something special for the "Yankees" in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

"It feels really good to be out here supporting the MEU," said Sgt. Barone Morales, of Eustis, Florida, a loadmaster with VMGR-452. "I was in New York on September 11, and see our deployment as an opportunity to strike back at the people who attacked us. It really gives a sense of purpose to a job we sometimes take for granted. It's much more rewarding than the normal supply missions we fly."

For more information on the 22d MEU (SOC), visit the unit's website at [www.22meu.usmc.mil](http://www.22meu.usmc.mil).



## 527 Marines graduate from Camp Crowder academies

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, commander, Marine Forces Reserve, speaks to the 80 graduates of the Staff NCO advanced course held at Camp Crowder, Mo., July 21 - Aug. 3, during their graduation ceremony.**

**CAMP CROWDER, Mo.** – Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, commander, Marine Forces Reserve, was the guest speaker during the reserve Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduation here Aug. 3.

“Each one of you (the graduates) leave here better qualified to lead Marines,” McCarthy said, during his speech to the graduates.

“They (instructors) threw so much information at me in a short amount of time,” said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Angelino, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 21, Lakehurst, N.J. “The course

was challenging for me — it prepares a gunnery sergeant for the future.”

The two-week advanced course encompasses leadership training, field training, physical fitness and war fighting skills to enhance their professional qualifications as leaders of Marines.

The advanced course was one of four courses held here throughout the summer. Other courses included two sergeant’s courses and one career course.

To attend these courses Marines must be within height and weight standards, pass the physical fitness test

and have in their possession the Marine Corps Institute Distance Education Program completion certificate for their appropriate course.

“Time (in service) doesn’t qualify you to lead,” McCarthy said. “It’s what we learn throughout our career, and how we communicate and show the Corps’ principles to younger Marines — that’s an effective leader.”

For more information on enlisted professional military education, visit the Marine Corps University site at <http://www.mcu.usmc.mil>.

## Camp Crowder Staff Academy graduates

### SERGEANT COURSE R1-02

(in order of ranking)

Sgt. Ryan J. Dibble  
Sgt. Keith C. Mair  
Sgt. Jason A. Ross  
Sgt. Jason P. Loveland  
Sgt. Douglas W. Springer  
Sgt. Wyatt L. Busbee III  
Sgt. Joseph F. Renner  
Sgt. James R. Fender  
Sgt. Cordell S. Smith  
Sgt. Elijah T. Smith  
Sgt. Stacy D. Shannon  
Sgt. Shannon L. Morgan  
Sgt. Benjamin J. Ramsey  
Sgt. Alejandro V. Palomino  
Sgt. Kristopher D. Tate  
Sgt. Sean M. Hampton  
Sgt. James A. Wylie  
Sgt. Fred N. Bommer II  
Sgt. Michael E. Ulch  
Sgt. Jason R. West  
Sgt. Michael J. Roberts  
Sgt. James M. Davis  
Sgt. Edwin J. Misa  
Sgt. Daniel D. Barkley  
Sgt. Greg P. Mitchell  
Sgt. Christopher A. Griffith  
Sgt. Mark D. Weigel

Sgt. Steven R. Herrera  
Sgt. Charles R. Peworski  
Sgt. Khanh T. Nguyen  
Sgt. Curt Sundell  
Sgt. Eric Abbott  
Sgt. Jared McKee  
Sgt. Jeremy W. Olson  
Sgt. Jason Blankenburg  
Sgt. David Halpin  
Sgt. Chett M. Daniel  
Sgt. William T. Griffin  
Sgt. Michael O. Zunino  
Sgt. Matthew A. Struecker  
Sgt. Jonathan J. Braca  
Sgt. James Quarles  
Sgt. Joseph R. Fernandez  
Sgt. Gregory L. Fronk  
Sgt. Robert E. Lee III  
Sgt. James M. McSpadden  
Sgt. Timothy S. Moore  
Sgt. Eduardo Jimenez  
Sgt. Derek C. Martin  
Sgt. Shannon W. Wallace  
Sgt. Lonnie P. Boudreaux  
Sgt. Benjamin M. Fradette  
Sgt. Timothy S. Yerian  
Sgt. Dale J. Tate  
Sgt. Olga Escamilla  
Sgt. Lamar D. Winslow  
Sgt. Nicholas L. Rochowiak

Sgt. Darla M. Pitts  
Sgt. Joseph J. Harleman  
Sgt. Dan G. Owen  
Sgt. Richard D. Romo  
Sgt. Clay F. Andrews  
Sgt. Jeff C. Sawdey  
Sgt. Ryan T. Seagraves  
Sgt. McArthur Davidson  
Sgt. Brian J. Fekete  
Sgt. Salvatore A. Bertuna  
Sgt. Kevin L. Young  
Sgt. Kenneth W. Cumper  
Sgt. Stuart E. Gardner  
Sgt. Cheryl Jiminez  
Sgt. Richard W. Nyström  
Sgt. Perry L. McCallum  
Sgt. Justin M. Higgins  
Sgt. Robert K. Lusk  
Sgt. Corey A. Smith  
Sgt. Thomas R. Frazier  
Sgt. Joseph V. Furman  
Sgt. Milton E. Echeverria  
Sgt. Ernesto L. Pineda  
Sgt. Cristina Lancellotti  
Sgt. Dominic L. Luckey  
Sgt. Jeremy L. Swift  
Sgt. Brian A. Klotz  
Sgt. David J. Mutchler  
Sgt. Andrew C. Fox  
Sgt. Dwayne O. Allen

Sgt. Guy A. Zierk  
Sgt. Ronald L. Silvas  
Sgt. Eddy Marin  
Sgt. Mario Torres Jr.  
Sgt. Andrew S. Gaines  
Sgt. Jason E. Waddell  
Sgt. Keith R. Wheeler  
Sgt. Alain Frederique  
Sgt. Victor M. Rodriguez  
Sgt. Richard D. Garza  
Sgt. Michael D. Nelson  
Sgt. Larry P. Marks  
Sgt. Brooks D. Vanderzee  
Sgt. Carson D. Roverson  
Sgt. David J. Mutter  
Sgt. Irvin M. Smith  
Sgt. Seth S. Stevens IV  
Sgt. Daniel C. Mendoza  
Sgt. Jeffrey D. Gentry  
Sgt. Tyler J. Nowicky  
Sgt. Raymond Cardona  
Sgt. Freddy G. Ortiz  
Sgt. Fred J. Trowell  
Sgt. Gabriel J. Galindo  
Sgt. Raul Sanchez  
Sgt. Timothy R. Tripp  
Sgt. Camilo S. Reyes  
Sgt. Rodney T. Brown  
Sgt. Michael A. Ornelas Jr.  
Sgt. Isaac E. Thompson



# MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

Sgt. Justin T. Wynn  
Sgt. Maurice S. Huffman  
Sgt. Scott E. Palmer  
Sgt. Everett Hemphill  
Sgt. Michael A. Warren  
Sgt. David B. Livingston  
Sgt. William P. Trenter  
Sgt. Daniel J. Lyman  
Sgt. Manuel Varelagarcia  
Sgt. Freddy F. Fiallos  
Sgt. Jeff A. Engelbretson  
Sgt. Paul R. Kearschner  
Sgt. David B. Dillon  
Sgt. Milton T. Ganes  
Sgt. Alan J. Carlson  
Sgt. Robert L. Racich  
Sgt. Wade W. Nicholson  
Sgt. Theodore M. Nizzi  
Sgt. Joseph W. Chamblin  
Sgt. Kevin R. Evans  
Sgt. Eric Lamberty  
Sgt. Barry L. Collier  
Sgt. Daniel S. Proulx  
Sgt. Richard Pineda  
Sgt. Robert A. Maldonado  
Sgt. Luke N. Medlin  
Sgt. Johnny A. Perez  
Sgt. Elizardo Albarran Jr.  
Sgt. Dana L. Dockery  
Sgt. Lance D. Soderling  
Sgt. Matthew P. Allen  
Sgt. Aaron L. Austin  
Sgt. David H. Marinelarena  
Sgt. Eric J. Voudren  
Sgt. Mario R. Mezias  
Sgt. George W. Kurtz  
Sgt. Ian D. Branch  
Sgt. Eddie C. Lawrence  
Sgt. Blerim Lusha  
Sgt. Luis A. Figueroa  
Sgt. Joseph S. Torres

## SERGEANT COURSE R2-02 (in order of ranking)

Sgt. Eric R. Bennett  
Sgt. Michael M. Parks  
Sgt. Brannon M. Lebouef  
Sgt. Deric D. Holmes  
Sgt. Marshall N. Sherman  
Sgt. Daniel A. Ward  
Sgt. Khadijah M. Nashage  
Sgt. Sean R. Garlock  
Sgt. Michael C. Sprano  
Sgt. Craig W. Collings  
Sgt. Mark A. Jiroch  
Sgt. Charles E. Cassel  
Sgt. Carlos M. Olivari  
Sgt. Rizalito S. Hernandez  
Sgt. Shawn J. Siebert  
Sgt. Sean B. Teichert  
Sgt. Franklyn G. Metz III  
Sgt. Mark J. Acton  
Sgt. Christian D. Perreias  
Sgt. Christopher M. Burris

Sgt. Jeffery B. Wells  
Sgt. Kenneth C. Cyr Jr.  
Sgt. Robert D. Franklin  
Sgt. Raymulo C. Baguyos  
Sgt. Christopher P. Armstrong  
Sgt. Bryan M. Alfaro  
Sgt. William C. Baldwin  
Sgt. Christopher A. Job  
Sgt. Mark M. Rosenbaum  
Sgt. Chad J. Handy  
Sgt. Ron E. Shover  
Sgt. Asatur M. Mkrtchyan  
Sgt. Christopher M. Norton  
Sgt. Jeremy W. Brown  
Sgt. Frank D. Elliott  
Sgt. Robert J. Lay  
Sgt. Devin J. Box  
Sgt. John L. Green Jr.  
Sgt. Cesar R. Huevo  
Sgt. Ronald Dunbar III  
Sgt. Joshua D. Vandiver  
Sgt. Stephen D. Davenport  
Sgt. Brett A. Womble  
Sgt. Christina L. Wong  
Sgt. Derek A. Coren  
Sgt. Terrance D. Brinegar  
Sgt. Bradley S. Woelfel  
Sgt. Ryan M. Jones  
Sgt. Chris C. Hornback  
Sgt. Justin L. Mann  
Sgt. Jonathan P. Jenkins  
Sgt. Drew A. Graska  
Sgt. Brad J. Sidilau  
Sgt. Troy R. Reider  
Sgt. Nelson O. Rivera  
Sgt. Maricela M. Stroud  
Sgt. William K. Townsend  
Sgt. Steven E. Vermeersch  
Sgt. Frederick L. Quintero  
Sgt. Christopher O. Lewis  
Sgt. Paul E. Minix  
Sgt. Jay A. Basile  
Sgt. James P. Beere  
Sgt. Merlin C. Micken  
Sgt. Gary Thompson  
Sgt. James D. Reynolds  
Sgt. Eric L. Wolf  
Sgt. Sean B. Bailey  
Sgt. Cory E. Greenstreet  
Sgt. Jason A. Muchow  
Sgt. Mark A. Murphy  
Sgt. Stephen A. Madigan  
Sgt. Raul A. Jameer  
Sgt. Duane D. Cowart  
Sgt. Ian V. Morada  
Sgt. Susan M. Lively  
Sgt. Arwin c. Dulay  
Sgt. Kelvin D. Paulk  
Sgt. Chad E. Humphrey  
Sgt. Travis W. Adams  
Sgt. Mark J. Ohmstead  
Sgt. Raphael Lopez  
Sgt. Travis S. Bruegman  
Sgt. Jared T. Hart  
Sgt. Raymond P. Utter

Sgt. Vincent M. Koenig  
Sgt. Peter J. Maes  
Sgt. Jerimiah L. Conway  
Sgt. Mark E. Hartman  
Sgt. Lance A. Nicklaus  
Sgt. Darin C. Marchell  
Sgt. Cameron P. Tyson  
Sgt. Kenneth J. Seney  
Sgt. Walter R. Fasci  
Sgt. Michael R. Sheehan  
Sgt. Michael E. Sousa  
Sgt. Chris M. Nugent  
Sgt. Nicholas P. Cavalier  
Sgt. Kris R. Haines  
Sgt. Shawn D. Bailey  
Sgt. Andrew C. Talaski  
Sgt. Robert D. Willoughby  
Sgt. Joshua M. Emmett  
Sgt. Edward Lora  
Sgt. Charley W. Marlar Jr.  
Sgt. Corky L. Provence  
Sgt. Jason R. Janisch  
Sgt. Carl R. Martin III  
Sgt. Irwin T. Gomez  
Sgt. Charles J. Ryan Jr.  
Sgt. David B. Luthke  
Sgt. Vincent C. Anyaso  
Sgt. Kurtis J. Lane  
Sgt. Phillip M. Kirkland  
Sgt. Victor M. Luna  
Sgt. Linda K. Junjak  
Sgt. Michael A. Fritz  
Sgt. Tobie L. Arfstrom  
Sgt. Thomas C. James  
Sgt. Kenneth M. Ball  
Sgt. Kenneth P. Kormanyos  
Sgt. Shawn M. Gilliard  
Sgt. Richard F. Arellanez Jr.  
Sgt. Kevin P. Bellew  
Sgt. Micheal B. McCormick  
Sgt. Stephen L. Mild  
Sgt. James T. Lucas  
Sgt. Michael S. Saperstein  
Sgt. Karl J. Conboy  
Sgt. John S. Whitte II  
Sgt. Braun E. Bryant  
Sgt. James Desir  
Sgt. Steven M. Dalbey  
Sgt. Enrique Vasquez  
Sgt. Darrell E. Stinson  
Sgt. Flavio L. Tavarres  
Sgt. Aaron J. O'Connor  
Sgt. Guy J. Oliwa  
Sgt. Louis M. Cellmer  
Sgt. Audier Irizarry  
Sgt. James H. Dever III  
Sgt. Stephen M. Dillon  
Sgt. Jimmie L. Duran  
Sgt. Jesus A. Mata  
Sgt. Donnal D. McRae  
Sgt. Bengston J. Andrew  
Sgt. Carlos L. Williams  
Sgt. Alberto A. Toscano  
Sgt. Sean A. Miller  
Sgt. Michael E. Sanchez

Sgt. Martin J. Leyva

## STAFF SERGEANT CAREER COURSE

(In order of ranking)

SSgt. Christopher P. Kelly  
SSgt. Billy J. Kruthers  
SSgt. Robert A. Eason  
SSgt. Phillip D. Bougere  
SSgt. Jonathan J. Goforth  
SSgt. Thomas E. Haney  
SSgt. David M. Stuart  
SSgt. Paul K. Mutch  
SSgt. Daniel W. Yourroski  
SSgt. John A. Stowe  
SSgt. Adam N. Sheinkin  
SSgt. Juan A. Morales  
SSgt. Joseph M. Chubb  
SSgt. Andrew T. Keis  
SSgt. Steven R. Davis  
SSgt. Michael J. Wittrock  
SSgt. Kenneth A. Marino  
SSgt. Lawrence E. Williams  
SSgt. Evan C. Guevarra  
SSgt. Lawrence T. Simpson  
SSgt. Shilo Garner  
SSgt. Craig Broadwater  
SSgt. Warren J. Fandal  
SSgt. Jason N. Shiflet  
SSgt. Russell D. Johnson II  
SSgt. David M. Stallings  
SSgt. Brian W. Perry  
SSgt. Nathan J. Rowe  
SSgt. Brad S. Harris  
SSgt. Richard E. Freier  
SSgt. Nicholas Amatulli  
SSgt. Mark L. Clark  
SSgt. Fabian Castillas  
SSgt. Daniel A. Devine  
SSgt. Norman D. Head  
SSgt. John M. Joudy  
SSgt. Felix A. Vanenkvoort  
SSgt. Theddeus A. Thomas  
SSgt. Stephen L. Harr  
SSgt. Shirley D. Woodard  
SSgt. Steven S. McCandless  
SSgt. William A. Sweet  
SSgt. Ian M. Perry  
SSgt. Michael B. Adams  
SSgt. Johnny Pena  
SSgt. Anthony W. Ortiz  
SSgt. Guy G. Singleton  
SSgt. Kevin H. Jones  
SSgt. David B. Madden  
SSgt. Lawrence W. Trimmer  
SSgt. Christopher S. Sanchez  
SSgt. Stephen D. Milburn  
SSgt. Brandford M. Fields  
SSgt. Alan W. Proctor  
SSgt. Ryan N. Sumida  
SSgt. Lars P. Adlerz  
SSgt. Hombre F. Sledge  
SSgt. James M. Gibbons  
SSgt. Angel U. Rivera

SSgt. David J. Brown  
 SSgt. Jason M. Johnson  
 SSgt. Welton Simpson  
 SSgt. Stanley J. Lewandowski  
 SSgt. Clifford D. Byerly  
 SSgt. Sean E. Morris  
 SSgt. James J. Sydnor  
 SSgt. Rex A. Laymon  
 SSgt. Jimmy Cortez  
 SSgt. Jason M. Donnelly  
 SSgt. Jason L. Quesenberry  
 SSgt. Mark A. Simone  
 SSgt. Peter C. Smyer  
 SSgt. Charles D. Fowler  
 SSgt. David A. Nelke  
 SSgt. Mark E. Stumbo  
 SSgt. Mark S. Lynch  
 SSgt. Robert E. Hooper  
 SSgt. Michael A. Close  
 SSgt. Gregory D. Butler  
 SSgt. Stephen P. Craig  
 SSgt. Joseph D. Hernandez  
 SSgt. Christopher Mendez  
 SSgt. Brian K. Yount  
 SSgt. Ernest L. Marion  
 SSgt. Phillip D. Crusey  
 SSgt. Anthony L. High  
 SSgt. Antonio Espeda  
 SSgt. Joseph M. Skareels  
 SSgt. John J. Yost Jr.  
 SSgt. Wesley W. Wade  
 SSgt. Raul Juarez Jr.  
 SSgt. Ray A. Fenwick  
 SSgt. Arie E. Rabell  
 SSgt. Derrick W. Leath  
 SSgt. Kenneth A. Mckelton  
 SSgt. Arthur Avitia  
 SSgt. Norman S. Nichols  
 SSgt. Mark A. Poggio  
 SSgt. Michael D. Shackelford  
 SSgt. Daniel E. Clark  
 SSgt. Damien E. Ristano  
 SSgt. Jose F. Fusner  
 SSgt. Shelly E. Willis  
 SSgt. Lorenzo Terry  
 SSgt. John G. Mobley Jr.

SSgt. David J. Bolles  
 SSgt. Michael J. Orcivch  
 SSgt. Tam L. Cragg  
 SSgt. Francisco A. Serrano  
 SSgt. David T. Slinko  
 SSgt. Joseph J. Simon  
 SSgt. Calvin Stanton  
 SSgt. David N. Koger  
 SSgt. Vincent P. Large-agee  
 SSgt. William A. Green  
 SSgt. James A. Deel  
 SSgt. Manvel A. Cruz  
 SSgt. Leslie W. Spurlock  
 SSgt. Daniel L. Wade Jr.  
 SSgt. Sherman L. Bootie  
 SSgt. Robert L. Kane Jr.  
 SSgt. Derek L. Poteat  
 SSgt. Wayne D. Schneider  
 SSgt. Shane D. Brown  
 SSgt. Adewale A. Shodeke  
 SSgt. Christopher G. Rios  
 SSgt. Russell J. Haring  
 SSgt. Stephen P. Crawford  
 SSgt. Ricky A. Johnson  
 SSgt. Peter J. Maierle  
 SSgt. James L. Ducan  
 SSgt. Sylvester Harris Jr.  
 SSgt. Jaime E. Ourique  
 SSgt. Jackie T. Totten  
 SSgt. Ronald Turner  
 SSgt. Ray P. Lewis  
 SSgt. Kenneth L. Pool  
 SSgt. Richard W. Tackley  
 SSgt. Dwayne E. McLeod  
 SSgt. Hector M. Hernandez Jr.  
 SSgt. Mauricio Mota  
 SSgt. Paul R. Weber  
 SSgt. Nicalas B. Morris  
 SSgt. David B. King  
 SSgt. Ruben N. Daniel  
 SSgt. Anthony Hamilton  
 SSgt. Kelvin R. Frazier  
 SSgt. Dennis Black  
 SSgt. Miguel A. Cruz  
 SSgt. Jeffrey R. Cassell

#### **GUNNERY SERGEANT ADVANCED COURSE (In alphabetical order)**

GySgt. Vincent P. Andrews  
 GySgt. Joseph G. Angelino  
 GySgt. Reginald J. Barner  
 GySgt. Michael S. Barnhill  
 GySgt. Anthony D. Beach  
 GySgt. Charles A. Betz  
 GySgt. Todd W. Bond  
 GySgt. Robert S. Browning  
 GySgt. Larry Bryant  
 GySgt. Arnold L. Byrd  
 GySgt. Roosevelt Coar  
 GySgt. Lee T. Crews  
 GySgt. James T. Darden  
 GySgt. Mark P. Dean  
 GySgt. Charles H. Delcourt  
 GySgt. Richard H. Deters  
 GySgt. Howard L. Duck  
 GySgt. Joseph P. Engler  
 GySgt. Marcus J. Fischer  
 GySgt. Jamey D. Foster  
 GySgt. Frank J. Gerraughty  
 GySgt. William D. Gilliam  
 GySgt. Frank Guajardo Jr.  
 GySgt. Camille A. Hamadant  
 GySgt. Billy D. Holmes  
 GySgt. Donald K. Hoover  
 GySgt. Randy L. Howard  
 GySgt. Steven J. Hudson  
 GySgt. Don A. Hunt Jr.  
 GySgt. Jay A. Jastal  
 GySgt. David G. Johnson  
 GySgt. Jerome Johnson  
 GySgt. Jason L. Joiner  
 GySgt. Homer L. Jolliff  
 GySgt. Steven M. Kosinski  
 GySgt. Michael A. Kretsch  
 GySgt. William V. Lopez  
 GySgt. Steven R. Madson  
 GySgt. Michael J. Martinez  
 GySgt. Alexander S. Martinez Jr.  
 GySgt. Phillip D. Matthias  
 GySgt. Shane C. Maxfield

GySgt. Luis M. Merette  
 GySgt. Raymond G. Merkle  
 GySgt. Jeff A. Mingledorff  
 GySgt. Jack L. Mitchell  
 GySgt. Jeffrey H. Mowers  
 GySgt. Jay Nanton  
 GySgt. Andres N. Ortega  
 GySgt. Antonio Padilla  
 GySgt. Carl B. Perry  
 GySgt. Joseph J. Perry  
 GySgt. Michael F. Petkus  
 GySgt. Christopher F. Phillips  
 GySgt. John C. Plummer  
 GySgt. Christopher B. Reed  
 GySgt. Walters P. Reid  
 GySgt. Jaime Rivera Jr.  
 GySgt. Tony A. Robertson  
 GySgt. Jason L. Rogers  
 GySgt. Joel D. Rogers  
 GySgt. Mark E. Rose  
 GySgt. John A. Salvati  
 GySgt. Roy B. Sandridge  
 GySgt. John P. Scheerer  
 GySgt. Edward C. Schoenberg  
 GySgt. Viriato B. Sena  
 GySgt. Scott A. Singer  
 GySgt. Gregg A. Smith  
 GySgt. Edwin P. Soriano  
 GySgt. Michael C. Steinruck  
 GySgt. Kurt L. Stermer  
 GySgt. Marcos S. Tayo III  
 GySgt. Brain R. Thomas  
 GySgt. Joseph E. Turner  
 GySgt. Christina S. Vercuyse  
 GySgt. Mark A. Vernon  
 GySgt. Arnulfo Villiarrel Jr.  
 GySgt. Mark G. Wheeldon  
 GySgt. Thomas B. Whitman  
 GySgt. Thomas R. Winkelbauer  
 GySgt. John R. Zachman



## **Marine For Life staff holds first conference**



The Marine For Life staff and "Hometown Links" from around the country pose for a group photo during a break at the first M4L conference held in Quantico, Va., Sept. 23-27. More than 40 reservists, who serve as Hometown Links, spent the week attending training sessions and panel discussions on the new transition assistance program. Additionally, they discussed issues and shared success stories relating to the new Corps-wide effort to provide networking assistance to the more than 27,000 Transitioning Marines leaving active duty each year after serving honorably. For more information on the Marine For Life program, visit [www.MarineForLife.com](http://www.MarineForLife.com) or phone (703) 784-9140/DSN 278-9140 or contact your local career retention specialist.



# Hornets ‘nest’ at Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Public Affairs

**MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii** — The Hells Angels of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 321 left Hawaii July 13 after completing two weeks of intense training in support of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise on and around Oahu, and the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise on the Big Island.

The squadron deployed 106 Marines and one Sailor from its home field at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and was completely self-supported throughout the training evolution.

Seven FA-18A “Hornet” aircraft were the tools of destruction for the squadron, and according to Lt. Col. Robert Ballard, VMFA-321 commanding officer, MCB Hawaii provided excellent training opportunities for the squadron.

“This deployment was very beneficial to the pilots and crews because it gave everyone a chance to operate in a forward-deployed environment, with very different weather conditions, high altitudes, and with live ordnance,” Ballard explained. “We had a lot going on, and everyone really had to put their game face on.”

Part of what made the training unique for the squadron was that it was the first HCAX and RIMPAC evolutions the Hells Angels had been part of. Targets on the ground were in close proximity to Marines and Sailors, and the pilots had the opportunity to work with 3rd Marine Regiment air liaison officers and forward air controllers for the first time. The training tested the logistical abilities of the squadron too.

“We put in a lot of hours making sure all of the aircraft were operational,” said Cpl. Stylianos Kutob, an operations clerk. “We self-deployed, and our supply chain from the rear was far, but when there were problems with any of the aircraft, we were able to get right on it.”



Sgt. Robert Carlson

**Marines from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 321 gathered on the flightline July 13, to discuss redeployment.**

This exercise was the first time many of the Marines had worked with the Navy in a forward-deployed environment.

“The Navy logistical support here was great,” said Sgt. Herbert Shannon, a VMFA-321 embarkation specialist. “When we deploy, we’re always learning something new, and this time we learned that the Navy here is very supportive.”

Shannon, a reserve Marine from Largo, Md., finished his annual training requirement with this deployment, and also qualified as a tan belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. More than 60 percent of the Marines who made the trip to Hawaii completed their annual training, and were able to experience an authentic Hawaiian luau along the way.

“Everyone got a lot out of this deployment,” said Ballard. “It also proved that we can take the entire squadron, pack it up, send it a very long distance, put a lot of ordnance on target, and redeploy back to our base.”

**An F/A-18A “Hornet” aircraft takes off from the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay flightline.**

Sgt. Robert Carlson

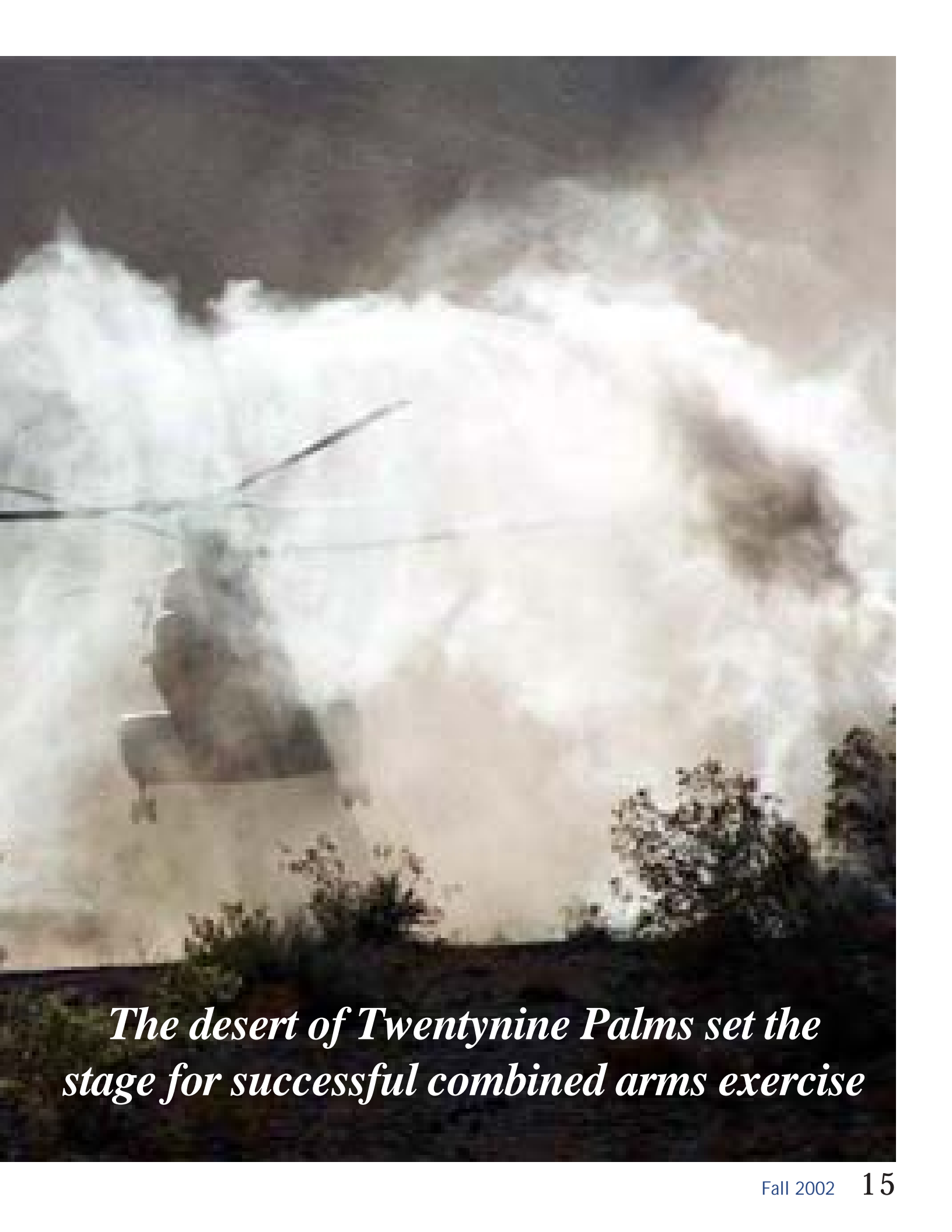




CAX-7/8-02

Photo By Lance Cpl. Matthew Appendi





*The desert of Twentynine Palms set the stage for successful combined arms exercise*

# Real world ops drive reserve combined arms exercise

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Lance Cpl. Preston L. Bass

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

## MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.

— More than 7,500 reserve Marines and sailors participated in Combined Arms Exercises 7 and 8, which took place, here, June 1-15 and June 22 – July 6, respectively. The live-fire exercises encompassed air, land and all other facets that make up a real world operation, and, not surprisingly, real world operations had a direct effect on the reserve CAXs this year.

When the Marine Corps decided to activate the 25<sup>th</sup> Marines regimental headquarters back in December for Operation Enduring Freedom, the planners for the largest annual reserve training exercise disappeared. A team from Marine Forces Reserve headquar-

ters and 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division stepped up to take over the monumental task of planning and conducting CAX 7 and 8.

Because of the ongoing global war on terrorism, the planning cell used the philosophy of “plug and play,” said Lt. Col. Louis Herrera Jr., the MAGTF MFR1 operations officer. “You never know when a reserve unit will get called to active duty,” explained Herrera. “In that event, we can put another reserve unit in their place without changing anything.”

The real world situation also contributed to the success of the training.

“I think there is recognition by everyone, down to the privates first class, that this summer is serious; that there is a chance that, in six to eight months, they will need what they’re learning now. I think that is part of what has made everyone serious and kept morale high,” said Col. Frank Gunter,

MAGTF MFR-1 commander.

Extreme importance was placed not only on units doing their part and doing it as fast as they can, but also on mastering communication and coordination, sometimes being miles apart, yet waiting for just the right moment to strike.

“The second after the bombs stop falling on the enemy, the artillery should start, as soon as the artillery stops something else should be starting. We have to make the enemy keep their head down and wondering, what’s coming next,” said Gunter.

“Twentynine Palms is the schoolhouse for integrating ground, artillery, air, and combat service support into one combat unit,” said Gunter. “CAX training is some of the best training you could get in the country when trying to prepare your people.”



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office



Lance Cpl. Thomas M. Barr, Co. A, 4th CEB, Charleston, W.Va, prepares a 40 lb. shaped charge under a flashlight at the Helo Assault Course.

## Engineers explode during CAX 7

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** — Under a clear, starry sky, six combat engineers from 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, Company A, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, Charleston, W.Va., worked through the night to complete an obstacle to restrain oncoming enemy forces at first light.

The Marines were integrated with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, for the Combined Arms Exercise Helo Assault Course, June 8-10.

The reinforced company had been flown in by CH-46s and CH-53E's in late afternoon and then hiked through the desert hills to gain a position on foothills looking toward the north, where the opposing force was expected to make their entry.

It was 11 p.m. when the engineers received their livelihood -- 364 pounds of explosives to be set up 1,300 meters north of the company's position. Their arsenal included four crater charges, four shaped charges, two satchel charges, and four TNT sticks.

“The purpose of us setting up these explosives is to make a large ditch across the road to deter enemy vehicles,” said Cpl. Bradford S. King, 3rd squad leader.

They were hoping for at least a two-minute hold up of the enemy at their obstacle. This type of an obstacle is essential for the defense because enemy forces slow down and Marines are able to lock on to targets, King said.

The Marines were driven out to the site and began to dig holes to place the explosives in. The shaped charges,

# 8th TANK BN LEAD THE WAY AT CAX 8

Lance Cpl. Preston L. Bass  
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** – The reserve Combined Arms Exercises this year were all about improvising, adapting and overcoming challenges created by the ongoing global war on terrorism. One of the biggest changes was the use of two tank companies as the heart of the ground combat element for CAX-8.

The tankers rose to the occasion and showed their ability to orchestrate a tornado of fire and maneuver as well as successfully take on new challenges. Instead of supporting an infantry company in the attack as usual, the second tank company put together its own plan of attack, supported it with tanks and executed the plan with their own manpower.

The tanks participated at their greatest level in years, which contributed to hitting the enemy in such a manner as to keep them suppressed and unable to regroup or counterattack.

“CAX-8 went so well with the use of the tank companies that I am sure that in future plans the same setup will probably be used again,” said Col. Frank Gunter, MAGTF MFR-1 commander, responsible for CAX 7-8. “Once put into rotation, it will take four to five years before the situation should occur again, where two companies of tanks are used as the aggres-



Cpl. Mikel D. Kibel

**Tanks blaze a dust trail across the desert floor during CAX 8.**

sors and defenders in a reserve CAX.”

“It was good training,” said Lance Cpl. Larry F. Cusaac Jr., from Company D, 8<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, Eastover, S.C. “It generated a lot of teamwork with other units. It was good training for wartime deadlines and the environment was great for what could actually happen.”



resembling a gallon wine bottle, were placed on a stand.

“The bottoms of crater charges allow the explosion to be directed to the earth, which accomplishes what were going after -- destroying the enemy’s path,” said Cpl. Ben Hunley, platoon sergeant, 1st Platoon.

Each one of the charges was wrapped with detonation wire 10 times around. This wire has a burn rate so fast that if it stretched from New York to Los Angeles it would only take eight minutes to finish its journey, King said.

The charges were placed within a few feet of each other with detonation wire hooking them together with a girth hitch with an extra twist. This type of knot ensures the burn of the detonation wire reaches each of the explosives as fast as possible, Hunley said.

After the long night of setting up the explosives and providing security at their defensive positions, it was time to finish the job they started. They

attached a 10.5-minute fuse and ignited the two strains of detonation wire with a push, a quarter turn and a pull of the igniter switch. With the signal of the smoke, they knew it was time to leave and get a not so close prospective of their handy work.

“Just one shaped charge in a sandy environment can create a 12 by 14 foot hole deep enough to fit a tank,” said Lance Cpl. Corey Kidd, a combat engineer from Marietta, Ohio.

They made it back to their defensive position and within two minutes the fire works exploded. A quick flash of fire then smoke filled the air followed by the earth quaking sound of the explosion. The engineers’ mission was a success.

But, the mission of the company was not done. The engineers grabbed their M-16A2 service rifles and Squad Automatic Weapon and began a base of fire as the simulated enemy made its



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**Marines from Co. A, 4th CEB, make their way through the Mojave desert prior to setting up the main breach at the Helo Assault Course during Cax 7-02**

way toward the defensive position. Every Marine might have a specific job but in the end there’s only one job all Marines have in common - rifleman.

“That’s why CAX is great training; Marines are able to do to their specific job plus understand their role in the bigger picture of a mission,” Hunley said.







Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**HM1 George Tyler and HM2 Jimmy Boyles, Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Medical Battalion, San Diego, Calif., evaluate a civilian playing the role of a victim who received severe burns during a nuclear power plant explosion.**

**Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine**  
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**PALDISKY, Estonia** – Reserve Marines and sailors traveled here in July to conduct a multi-national and joint training exercise with Baltic nations.

The purpose of the exercise was to check the preparedness of Estonian forces to establish command and control systems in crisis situations, enhance cooperation among various authorities and international organizations, and promote cooperation

## ***MEDCEUR '02 Preparing for a crisis***

between the members of the defense forces from various countries.

The crisis response exercise, Medical Exercise Central Europe, MEDCEUR 02, included military and civilian personnel from Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

The three nations have each begun the process of becoming a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In accordance with NATO rules

and regulations, countries must demonstrate the ability to work in multi-national efforts. These three countries used elements of the exercise, which fit NATO criteria, to show their ability to work in a joint-nation operation.

“Terrorism wants to destroy our way of life, to injure women and children, to end civilization. In today’s complicated world where security cannot be assumed, the roll of military medical personnel is becoming one of the utmost importance,” said Vice

Admiral Tarmo Kouts, commander of the Estonian Defense Forces. “Uniformed medics must be able to perform in a fast, effective way to maximize their ability and knowledge to assist their victims, sometimes with limited supplies and in extreme situations. This is what you must learn during this exercise.”

Included in the U.S. contingent were members of the Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Medical Battalion, San Diego, Calif., Military Police Company B, Headquarters and Service Bn., 4th Force Service Support Group, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Company A, 4th Combat Engineer Bn, Charleston, W.Va.

The exercise consisted of two phases. The first phase was classroom and hands-on training for the 10-year-old Estonian military, while the second phase was a large-scale mass casualty evacuation field exercise.

The field exercise consisted of two scenarios over a three-day period. The first was a flood at an old munitions site which destroyed the infrastructure of the city, leaving no electricity, water, or transportation, while the



second scenario was an explosion at a nuclear power plant. The task for each emergency was to evacuate and transport civilians, playing the role of victims, by helicopter and ambulance to the U.S. Navy hospital ship Comfort to receive medical treatment.

The three participating units had different missions for the exercise. The corpsman from San Diego spent time with the Estonian military and civilian medical personnel, teaching them about the Fleet Marine Force, shock trauma platoon (STP) organization, structure and mission, advanced trauma and life support and nuclear, biological and chemical medicine.

Upon arrival, the sailors and Marines from the STP, realized that their mission had changed. They originally were to lead class instruction and support the field exercise with an STP. However, they stepped up to the plate and managed the entire field exercise, created over 200 casualty scenarios for three days of casualty drills and maintained medical regulating and casualty evacuation management.

In addition to overseeing the field evolution, they set up and ran a trauma center alongside the Estonian military

and civilian medical personnel that provided pre-hospital life support for the victims of each disaster.

During times of disaster, it is important that medical facilities become ready and available but it is equally important to ensure the security of these facilities. This responsibility rested upon the MP platoon.

Reserve military police Marines spent the first phase teaching the Estonian MPs topics such as the five basic MP missions, convoy security, law enforcement operations, rights of the accused, and enemy prisoner of war processing and constitutional law. They also built and described the use of terrain models.

“Because the Estonian military police force only began in Jan. 2002, our primary mission was to train them in the basic MP mission, doctrine and tactics,” said Maj. Ed P. Wojnarowski, commanding officer, MP Co. B., H&S Bn, 4th FSSG.

During the field exercise, the Marines provided traffic control points, perimeter security, and maintained order and security at the casualty locations as well as at the shock trauma platoon locations.

The Marine engineers provided training to the Estonian forces in landmine sweeps and combat engineer operations in support of infantry. They put on a display of several different types of demolitions used in support of infantry, demonstrating explosives such as bangalore torpedoes, used to breach fences or wire obstructions, suspension charges, used to remove walls and concrete, as well as breaching techniques for doors and windows.

For the field exercise, they conducted landmine sweeps before the shock trauma platoons from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the U.S. set up their facilities. They also took on the role of a small unit that sustained major injuries and casualties after being bombed.



During the course of the field exercise, over 200 volunteers, ranging from five to 65 years old, were “walking wounded” with injuries from basic cuts and sprained ankles to severe full-body acid burns and amputations. While these injuries kept the corpsman and other military and civilian personnel busy, some volunteers were mentally unstable in nature wielding weapons, which kept the military police busy.

Upon completion of the field exercise, all units from the different countries participated in a pass and review, which signified the end of the exercise.

“This training evolution went phenomenally well for all countries involved,” said Cmdr. Steven P. Medina, commanding officer, Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Med. Bn.



**Opposite page: Engineers from 4th CEB perform mine sweeps prior to the medical units from Estonia and the U.S. setting up their facilities.**

**Top: MPs from MP Co. B escort simulated victims to medical treatment.**

**Left: Members of the Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Medical Battalion evaluate victims with simulated injuries during MEDCEUR 02. Photos by Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine**



# MEDCEUR participants maximize time in Estonia

Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine  
Marine Forces Reserve, Public Affairs Office

**PALDINSKY, Estonia** – A trip to Estonia may be a once in a lifetime experience so the Marines and sailors deployed here for their annual training made the most of the training and cultural opportunities.

Reserve Marines and sailors deployed here for their annual training conducting crisis response exercise, here, while participating in various training opportunities.

Marines and sailors from Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Medical Battalion, San Diego, Calif., Military Police Company B, Pittsburgh, Penn., and Company A, Combat Engineer Battalion, Charleston, W.Va., spent their two-week annual training, here, at Medical Exercise Central Europe, MEDCEUR 02, 16-29 July.

The host country of Estonia is taking steps to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and used MEDCEUR 02, an operation that simulated mass casualty and emergency situations, to demonstrate they are able work in a multi-national joint relief operation.

In addition to the training and field exercise, the Marines and sailors were afforded the opportunity to familiarization fire Soviet weapons such as

the bolt-action SKY II Russian rifle, the AK-47 automatic machine gun as well as the Makharov PPM pistol. Even though the shooters endured cold wind and rain, they said it was one of the highlights of the operation.

“Shooting at the range was the best part of the exercise,” said HM3 Monina F. Hulong, STP, 4th Medical Battalion. “It was fun to fire weapons that we would not get to at home.”

The engineers from 4th CEB also put on a live-fire demolition demonstration that included explosive such as bangalore torpedoes, mouseholes, suspension charges, and other breaching techniques.

“We have to learn everything we can from the U.S.,” said 2nd Lt. Ivo Jurak, platoon commander, Estonian Scout Platoon. “We have never used this demolition before, it is great information.”

Although the training was the reason for the trip to Estonia, the Marines and sailors enjoyed some off-time as well.

The non-commissioned officers and staff non-commissioned officers were treated to a Field Mess Night hosted by the Estonian Marine Security

Guard. It was held at the Marine House, which boasts pool tables, dartboards and a swimming pool. After singing the “Barney” song, dancing while singing, “I’m a Little Teapot,” and being fined for breaking the cardinal rule of requesting a headcall, some left with less humility and money, but the Marines said they enjoyed the night and would never forget it.

Estonia’s capital, Tallinn, is rich in history and was



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**MEDCEUR 02 participants take advantage of being in a former Soviet bloc country and fire weapons such as the AK-47.**

something else the participants were able to experience while on free time. The Marines and sailors took advantage of tours of the city, flea markets and shops, and favorite local restaurants.

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience liberty in a former soviet block county, the cultural exchange was great,” said Master Sgt. Kenneth A. Noble, operation/ training chief, MP Co. B.



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**The Marines and sailors took part in a Mess Night which was hosted by the Marine Security Guard in Tallinn, Estonia.**



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**Cpl. Ryan Q. Ashworth, demolitions instructor, Company A, 4th Combat Engineers, Charleston W. Va., explains to Estonian soldiers different types of explosives used to support infantry.**



# 4th FSSG Marines provide relief support in Okinawa

**Staff Sgt. Nathan L. Hanks Jr.**  
Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

**CAMP KINSER, Japan** — In an effort to refresh their military occupational specialty skills, a group of Marine Corps reservists assigned to 4th Force Service Support Group came here to take part in the Personnel Training Augmentation Program I, July 9-22.

The program, sponsored by 3rd FSSG, gave 44 reservists an opportunity to train with active duty Marines while completing their two weeks of annual training.

“The PTAP provides relief to 3rd FSSG units during post operation maintenance periods,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Lesley G. Maenner, operations chief, 3rd FSSG.

These periods include the deployments that returned from Exercises Balikatan, Freedom Banner and Cobra Gold.

“The PTAP is a win-win proposition for everyone,” Maenner said. “The training and work experience that our reserve Marines received is real world, and will give them experiences that they can take back to their home units.”

Coming to Okinawa was a good experience, according to Lance Cpl. Christopher M. Peters, metal worker, Engineer Support Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th FSSG, and Battle Creek, Mich. native.

“This is a refresher course,” Peters

said. “I have not touched a tig welder since I graduated from MOS school. At my civilian job, I don’t have access to one. So, these past two weeks, I was able to sharpen my tig welding skills.”

During the training, Peters worked on a communication radio and air conditioning vents for field tents. He also stated that this was his first annual training since he graduated MOS school.

For Cpl. Joel H. Schmidt, also a metal worker, this is his third annual training but first on Okinawa.

“This is my first time on Okinawa and my first time working with aluminum in more than two years,” said Schmidt, a Petersburg, Mich., native. “Tig welding is a tedious job. If you don’t clean the metal first, and the weld looks dirty, then the weld is not going to be as strong as it should be.”

According to Schmidt, one thing he learned and will carry over to his civilian job is paying attention to detail.

“The reserve Marines not only got the opportunity to travel to Okinawa but received some excellent training and work experience, while offering their supported unit some much-needed assistance,” said Maenner, an Edgewater, Md., native.

While here on Okinawa, the reservists provided relief support in various areas, to include ordnance

and motor transport. They also received specific guidance from their active duty counterparts in other training areas, get hands-on experience as administrative clerks, field radio operators, supply administration and operation clerks, small computer systems specialists, machinists, mechanics and metal workers.

The reservists received their training at various battalions throughout 3rd FSSG, providing support to 9th ESB, 3rd Transportation Support Bn., 3rd Materiel Readiness Bn., and Headquarters and Service Bn. CM



Staff Sgt. Nathan L. Hanks Jr.

**Lance Cpl. Christopher M. Peters, a metal worker with Engineer Support Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th FSSG, Battle Creek, Mich., welds two pieces of aluminum together.**



Cpl. Richard Kulleck

## *Marine Corps Martial Arts – Get Some!*

**Lance Cpl. Celina J. Arellano, S-1 administrative clerk, Marine Aircraft Group 46, Miramar, Calif., practices kicks during martial arts training.** “The martial arts training has been focused on technique with less of a focus of strength,” said Arellano. “Learning survival techniques benefits Marines, male and female. I am glad that I got the opportunity to build on this training.” The training was part of annual training for MAG headquarters.

# 4/14 ROLLS ITS WAY TO CAMP SHELBY, MISS.



Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

**Battery K, 4th Battalion, 14th Regiment, 4th Marine Division, is given the order to fire on designated target while being evaluated during the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise.**

**Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs**

Marine Forces Reserve, Public Affairs

**CAMP SHELBY, Miss.** – Fourth Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, conducted their unit's largest and longest "Motor March", June 14, to Camp Shelby, Miss., a new site for their two-week Annual Training exercise.

Approximately 550 Marines with over 100 pieces of rolling stock, primarily five-ton trucks and Humvees, made their way to the largest state-owned training site in the nation, bringing with them fifteen 155mm Towed Howitzers.

Three firing batteries power 4/14; Battery K from Chattanooga, Tenn., Battery M from Huntsville, Ala., and Battery L along with Headquarters Battery from Bessemer, Ala.

Over a period of two weeks, 4/14 will fire some 1,200 artillery rounds using almost all of the firing ranges on Camp Shelby.



Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

**Battery K, 4th Battalion, 14th Regiment, 4th Marine Division, makes ready their 155mm Towed Howitzers for target mission assignments.**

"This is an excellent facility for combat simulated training," said 1st Sgt. Scott A. Leigh, battery first sergeant, Battery L. "We have the opportunity to operate in a versatile environment."

During times of conflict, such as The Global War on Terror, it is imperative that all Marines be prepared, and combat ready. In the midst of battle, Marines have to stay continually focused on their objective, maintaining a higher level of awareness. Portions of 4/14 were mobilized in support of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990.

"You have to tighten your chinstrap and give it all you got," said Pfc. David M. Curry, a native of Birmingham, Ala. and a wireman for Headquarters Battery. "This type of training makes you wonder, 'Do I know what I have to do if I were to go to war today?'"

Camp Shelby provides the Marines with a new and unfamiliar training environment, which equates to a more challenging and interesting training event.

"The climate is about the same as we live in, so its good training," said Staff Sgt. Michael T. Martin, radio chief, HQ Battery. "The terrain here also offers a wider variety of obstacles."

Unlike exercises held on a Marine Corps training facility where all scheduled operations are dictated from a higher headquarters, 4/14 had to face the challenge of organizing the exercise on their own, said Maj. James M. Rose, operations officer, HQ Battery.

"It gave us the chance to go on a non-Marine Corps facility

and show our colors," said Rose.

This year's highlighted events include a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise, which is conducted at the conclusion of the training; and a "direct fire shoot", which is similar to a marksmanship contest except for its artillery. The MCCREE will grade the Marines based on their individual and overall unit performance.

"They are doing excellent," said Martin. "All the batteries have done an



Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

**Lance Cpl. Antonio L. Patterson, a native of Huntsville, Ala., mans an M240G machine gun on security watch during his reserve unit's two-week annual training exercise at Camp Shelby.**

outstanding job in all areas of the training. I give it an A+."

Ready, willing and able is Marine Forces Reserve's motto. Reservists must undergo rigorous training in the time afforded to them to maintain the same high standards necessary for them to be efficient in a wartime environment. The two-week AT exercise is an opportunity for the Marines to put it all on the line.

"Long hours and hard work, and they are still going strong," said Leigh. "These are the most motivated Marines I have seen in years."

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# G Co. 2/25 returns from real-world operation in Kosovo

Consolidated Public Affairs Office

Camp Lejeune, N.C.

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Reserve Marines and sailors serving in the war-torn province of Kosovo began their return here Aug. 28 after providing support for the ongoing Operation Rapid Guardian.

Approximately 225 G Company, 2d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment troops concluded their role in the United Nations-controlled region after more than eight weeks of providing assistance for the humanitarian aid operation.

The company from Dover, N.J., teamed up with NATO and other allied countries July 12 to assist in policing areas surrounding Leskovica and Drenova Glava. Their mission included checkpoint operations and traffic control points, which helped deter a rampant black market of weapons smuggling and other contraband, according to Executive Officer Maj. Alex Waugh. He explained the Marines joined in the effort to maintain good order and discipline in a country full of hatred. The company's mission was to support the United Nations resolution and ensure both the Albanians and Serbs abided by their commitments to one another.

During the first weeks in Kosovo, the company seized several illegal weapons and numerous rounds of ammunition after performing routine searches, he



MSgt. Phil Mehringer

**Marines await the start of the anti-smuggling operation in Macedonia.**

said.

To keep a good repertoire with law-abiding local citizens, the unit also organized several medical civil-action teams to help villagers in nearby towns and provided Red Cross care packages to those in need, according to Staff Sgt. Jay Hunter, a platoon sergeant from Clifton, N.J.

In recent years the region has experienced a great deal of turbulence, leaving many citizens in the Southern Yugoslav province homeless.

The conflict in the region is largely due to its geographical location, which is home to three major religions. To the north lie Orthodox Christians, who are proud of their Serbian heritage and the former ruling power in the region, said Waugh. To the east and south are Muslims, mainly ethnic-Albanian, and to the west are Roman Catholics, he explained.

In the late 1990s, the ruling Serb government of Yugoslavia attempted to forcefully remove ethnic-Albanians to repopulate the area with Serbians. After a period of what seemed like outright genocide, the United Nations intervened and allied countries conducted a 78-day aerial attack forcing Serbs to retreat back to the present day Republic of Serbia, according to Waugh. The conflict left tens of thousands of people displaced from their homes and hundreds of minefields scattered across the area.

"The legacy has left the indigenous population torn with neighbor hating neighbor, religion versus religion," said Waugh.

The operation seemed ideal for G Company, the executive officer said.

Waugh said the majority of the Marines are police officers, firemen, and



Master Sgt. Phil Mehringer

**This sign was originally for the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit when it arrived during the summer of 1999.**

college students, which makes the company very entrepreneurial. He added reservists and not conducting Marine Corps training day in and day out did not slow them down. In fact, being reservists possibly provided them an advantage.

"Because these Marines have a professional life outside the Marine Corps, they allow their civilian life experiences to generate unique solutions to all challenges," said Waugh, a Hockessin, Del., native. "If something needs to be done, we have someone to fill that position. Our Marines don't wait for commanders to dictate solutions. They realize the problem and take charge. We just give them the commanders intent and they move forward."

The company's deployment came after only six months of being activated and assigned to 2d Marine Division here. Waugh said the company knew of its activation just one month in advance to relocating, which allowed little time for training, but that the unit "stepped up the pace" since being reactivated.

"Our Marines did a terrific job," said Col. Thomas Brandl, 25th Marine Regiment commanding officer. "What they accomplished is a perfect example of how we can integrate reserves into real world operations."

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# MWSG-47 is buzzed about operation **HORNET TRAP**

Maj. John McGinnis

MWSS-471, Det. B

## NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION LAKEHURST, N.J. –

“Hornet Ball, 3.2, hook down” was the call signifying the culmination of 10 days of hard work by members of all three reserve Marine Wing Support Squadrons. Marines from MWSS-471, 472 and 473 participated in Operation “Hornet Trap”, here, June 14-29.

The goal of the operation was to test all three Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG) 47 Expeditionary Air Field (EAF) sections in the use of the M-21 arresting gear system and the FLOLS (Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System) otherwise known as “The Ball”. This is the first time since 1999 that an entire M-21 system has been fielded for operational use and the first time in recent memory that it’s been done by a reserve MWSG.

“The last time an M-21 system was put in the ground for operational purposes was in Egypt during ‘Bright Star’ and that was by an active duty MWSS, so we’re very proud of our Marines and what they’ve accomplished here,” said Col. Christopher K. Joyce, commanding officer of MWSG-47.

The preparation for Hornet Trap began back in January with the selection of a site that would simulate many of the real world scenarios for the installation



GySgt John Clary

**Lance Cpl. Romero Moreno of MWSS 471, Det. B, watches an F/A-18 taxi by for its final take off.**

of the M-21 system and present many of the possible real world problems associated with the installation process.

“We wanted to select a site that presented us with many of the problems that we’ll likely face during a short fused operational deployment to an overseas location such as climate, runway length and soil content,” said Gunnery Sgt. John D. Clary, MWSS-471 EAF noncommissioned officer in charge.

NAES Lakehurst was chosen because of its difficult summer climate (temperatures during installation were in the mid 90’s with 85-90 percent humidity for the duration of the of the exercise). The operational runway used for recovery of the F/A-18 aircraft was only 5000 feet long, which made the use of the M-21 system mandatory for recovery of aircraft considering the aircraft’s fuel load.

“The soil content was extremely difficult with regards to the installation of the M-21 anchoring system, much more rocky than we were expecting. The soil caused some delays but in the end we put the work in to accomplish the mission just

like we would in the field...in the end you do what you have to,” said Gunnery Sgt. M.D. Frailey, MWSS-472 EAF.

The Marines from MWSG-47 hit the ground running when they arrived at NAES Lakehurst. The first two days were spent in classroom instruction on installation of the M-21 system, coordination with NAES Lakehurst Air Operations personnel, safety briefs and final coordination with the reserve Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons (VMFA) 321 and 142 for aircraft support.

Next, the Marines moved to the installation of the M-21 arresting gear which required support from the EAF, Heavy Equipment and Utilities sections working in close cooperation.

“The installation was going well ahead of schedule until we hit rock on the north side of the runway about six feet down and one of the seals in the system developed a leak,” said Capt. Tom “Hans” Preimesberger, safety officer, MWSS-471. “At that point we had to readjust our timeline for installation due to the slow going and work to replace a seal inside the arresting gear system. The Marines did a fantastic job...they were working 17-hour days in the heat but continued to drive because they knew that if the system



GySgt John Clary

**Landing Safety Officer Maj. John McGinnis of MWSS 471, Det. B, talks to pilot just prior to arrestment.**



GySgt John Clary

**An F/A-18 just prior to hooking the cable of M-21 arresting gear.**

wasn't ready on time that the F/A-18's wouldn't be able to trap. I see these obstacles as very similar to what we might encounter in an operational deployment."

With the anchors in place and the faulty seal replaced the M-21 gear was finally ready for certification checks on Sunday (Jun. 23). With NAVAIR personnel from MCAS Cherry Point supervising, the Marines from MWSSG-47 put the system through its paces. It performed flawlessly.

Tuesday morning 0930 was scheduled game day. At 0927:30 the PRC-113's in use by the landing signal officers crackled with the call: "Gator

came into the break and was given direction: "hook up for the first pass" to determine the suitability of the FLOLS for brightness, glideslope and touch-down point. The aircraft touched down exactly where it was supposed to prior to the arresting gear and the pilot reported no problems with the FLOLS. The aircraft was then given the instruction: "Hook down next pass". As the Hornet rolled into the groove hook down everyone held their breath. Would 10 days of backbreaking work pay off?

"Only a couple of us had ever seen the system operate before so we didn't know quite what to expect. When the

31, flight of two, 5 mile initial." The F/A-18 aircraft were right on time. With a thumbs up from Air Traffic Control, Air Ops, and the EAF crew the operational portion of the exercise was underway. The first F/A-18

Hornet rolled into the wire dirt and arresting gear supports went flying everywhere and the M-21 made this huge noise along with the smell of burning rubber. Then all of the sudden the Hornet stopped. It was awesome!" said Lance Cpl. C. Moreno, MWSS-471 EAF.

At one point in the operation a part of the M-21 cable attachment system known as a "cowbell" failed. This critical failure rendered the M-21 system incapable of performing arrestments. With an airborne Hornet declaring only five minutes of fuel remaining before a divert to a different field would be necessary, Marines from all three MWSSs raced to replace the key part. With time running out they managed to bring the system back into an "up" status and safely recover the final F/A-18.

In all, the Marines successfully performed eight traps.

"We accomplished everything we set out to do here," said Clary. "We set out with several goals for Hornet Trap: train the next generation of EAF leadership, demonstrate the deployability and reliability of the M-21 system, develop a game plan for future deployments and, finally, do it all safely."

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## Marines, sailors from MWSS-471 horse around...

For the fourth consecutive year, MWSS-471, Det.(-), Minneapolis, helped support the 2002 Hugo (Minn.) High School Rodeo competition, June 21-23. Marines and sailors set up portable shower facilities for riders to use at the end of the day. On the last day, riders and their families enjoyed a steak dinner prepared by MWSS-471 food service.





# Operation Lone Star: 4th Medical and Dental Battalions provide care in South Texas Colonias

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi  
Marine Forces Public Affairs Office

**WESLACO, Texas** – They lack potable water, sewage systems, electricity, paved roads and sanitary housing. This is not in a third world country - it's in the United States of America.

Beside living in these conditions day in and day out, the people who inhabit these colonias (Spanish term for neighborhood) have minimal to no medical and dental treatment.

More than 60 reserve Marines and sailors from 4th Medical Battalion and 4th Dental Battalion are here to help rectify that problem, July 29 to Aug. 7, by taking part in a humanitarian operation coined Lone Star.

“Humanitarian operations offer Marines and sailors great training and contribute to the community at the

same time - it's a win win situation,” said Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, commander, Marine Forces Reserve, who visited the site Aug. 2.

Colonias are located along the U.S./ Mexico border. They are found in New Mexico, Arizona, California and Texas.

Texas has the largest population and number of colonias of the four states. Approximately 400,000 Texans live in the more than 1,200 settlements throughout the state.

Sailors and Marines are focusing their attention to the very southern tip of Texas, where colonias are the densest.

The units set up shop in four different locations to give general medical care, sports physicals, immunizations, diabetic screening, dental work, pharmaceutical needs and anything that ails the more than 200 people who visit each location on a daily basis.

“The hours are long but it feels good to be on your own soil helping out Americans,” said Sgt. Garrett R. Reid, detachment noncommissioned-officer-in-charge, Headquarters Surgical Company A, Pittsburgh.

The Marines are there to support the medical company, Reid said. To date, \$290,000 of free treatment has been given to 3,337 patients. They expect to treat more than 7,500 people by the time the operation is complete.

“The amount of people we will treat here in the two weeks of this operation, will equal the amount a

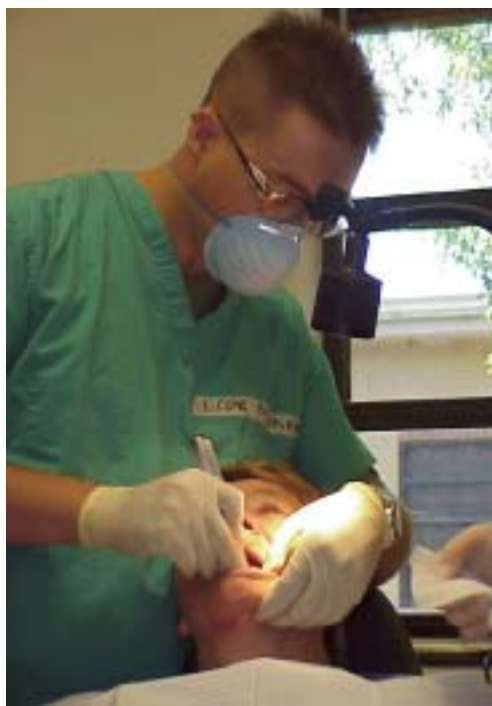
“The hours are long but it feels good to be on your own soil helping out Americans.”

*Sgt. Garrett R. Reid*



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**A patient and her child await treatment at one of the four offices used during Operation LoneStar.**



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Bormann, 4th Dental Battalion, 14th Dental Co., Forest Park, Il., grabs hold of one of six teeth eventually pulled out of a colonia woman during Operation Lone Star '02.**

community health center will do in a year,” said Brian R. Smith, M.D., M.P.H., regional director, Texas Department of Health, Region 11.

Considering the fact the days are long and the line of people never end, the Navy / Marine team and all the volunteers will continue to help the many who want treatment. Together they work and help out their fellow Americans.



# MWSS 471, Det B., builds Navajo homes during Operation Footprint



Master GySgt. Robert W. Appleton

**Members of MWSS-471, Det. B, use a power screen to pave a 12,000 square foot parking lot at the Navajo Housing Authority manufacturing facility.**

**Master GySgt. Robert W. Appleton**

Marine Wing Support Squadron-471, Det. B.

**GALLUP, N.M.** — For six weeks this summer, engineers from Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, Detachment B, Mount Clemens, Mich., worked alongside members of the Air Force Reserve to erect seven houses here for needy Navajo families. The effort was part of Operation Footprint, an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program administered by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

The houses were built at a central facility according to a unique design that allowed them to be separated in two parts,



Master GySgt. Robert W. Appleton

**Lance Cpl. T.E. Williams of Delano, Minn., installs the main electrical supply panel on one of the houses.**

then taken to their ultimate site on the Navajo reservation using a special trailer that allows the operator to precisely position the house for placement on its foundation.

The Marines also graded and paved a 12,000 square foot concrete parking lot

and made other improvements to the Navajo Housing Authority manufacturing facility. The improvements will enable the South West Indian Foundation to continue construction of the much needed houses for years to come.

The goal of the project was to provide “real world” training for the Marines, while supplying a meaningful benefit to the community.

“The IRT program is a cooperative effort between the Defense Department and local non-profit organizations. The organization provides the materials, while the military unit provides labor, expertise and equipment. The community receives needed support while the military unit accomplishes essential training at little or no cost. It is the prototypical ‘win-win’ situation,” said Major John McGinnis, operations officer for MWSS 471, Det. B, and officer in charge of the project.

Another benefit of Operation Footprint was the opportunity for Marines to work side by side with their Air Force counterparts, gaining knowledge from them and sharing their own skills. This project was “purple” in every respect. Leaders for each specific aspect of the project were selected based on a person’s demonstrated ability, without regard to which service they belonged.

“I think we learned a lot from each other. I hope we can work together again,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Phil Binder.

The centerpiece of all IRT projects is the training. This one was ideal. Nearly every required construction skill was exercised. Every Marine on the project either learned something new or taught something new to his Marines.

“If everyone learned something from this project, it was a success,” said Senior Master Sgt. L.T. Gibson, the Air Force project manager.

An added benefit of every IRT project is the chance to provide the community a sorely needed service that would otherwise be unavailable. In this case, the beneficiaries were the neediest members of the Navajo Nation, living in one room houses, without heat, running water or electricity, in a harsh desert environment where



Master GySgt. Robert W. Appleton

**Marines prepare a house for transport to the Navajo reservation where the two halves will be placed together on a foundation.**

temperatures can range from 20 degrees below zero in the winter to 110 degrees in the summer.

“It’s really motivating to know that the work we did made a difference to somebody,” said Cpl. Michael Jones.

The project coincided with the opening of the movie, *Wind Talkers*, about the legendary Navajo Code Talkers who served the Marine Corps so valiantly during World War II. The Marines were grateful that they were able to give something back to the community that produced so many Marine heroes.

“It was a chance to take care of our own,” said Lance Cpl. Robert Kendrick.





Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**An LAV from 4th LAR Bn. fires its 25mm Bushmaster Chain Gun during Exercise Allied Sabre '02.**

**Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi**  
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

### **WAINWRIGHT, Alberta** – The camouflaged “Pig”

roared its turbocharged 240 horsepower Detroit Diesel engine as it ripped through the hilly green terrain. The “Pig” boasts a 25mm Bushmaster Chain Gun but without its operators — reserve Leathernecks from Company D, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Quantico, Va., 4th Marine Division — it’s useless.

More than 90 reserve Marines arrived with their 16 “Pigs”, also known as Light Armored Vehicles, to take part in Exercise Allied Sabre Aug. 15 - 30 for their annual training here.

“The training platform here allowed us to utilize all of our assets at the company level,” said Maj. Benjamin Busch, commander, Co. D, 4th LAR.

The standard vehicle, the LAV-25, has the Bushmaster as well as pintle and coaxial M240G medium machine guns. Also smoke grenades come standard with the eight-wheeled LAV.

LAV’s are self-sustaining — able to drive 400 miles on a tank of gas. Other assets at the company level include; 81mm Mortars, TOW’s (Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided Missile), and logistical vehicles all built into different variants of the LAV-25.

“If one of our line vehicles need some indirect fire to suppress the enemy, it only takes one call to the mortars - if there’s a threat of a tank, we got the TOW,” said Lance Cpl. Andrew Brock, gunner, Weapons Platoon.

If in a tight situation — facing a tank or another heavy armored vehicle — LAV’s are able to get out of a danger area fast,

# Co. D, 4th LAR, train with the B

because they can reach speeds greater than 60 mph, said Staff Sgt. Troy Allen, 1st platoon sergeant.

During the two-week training evolution they put all their resources to use.

“When it’s time to train, we go all out,” said Allen. “They (Marines) don’t want to be in the rear, they want to be out in the field firing their weapons as much as possible - pure motivation.”

And they had plenty of time to do so; the Marines had 5,500 rounds to dish out during the live firing segment of their training. They fired at a three-round-burst rate, but the Bushmaster is capable of shooting 200 rounds per minute.

“Range 25 afforded basic fire missions for the newer crews, but also more advanced maneuvers for the Marines who have been together for some time,” said Sgt. Jim Letsky, company master gunner, who set up the live firing training for the unit. “I was extremely impressed on how the Marines handled themselves on the range.”

The rounds lit up the sky during the three days and the two night shoots. Darkness doesn’t hinder the operation of these LAV’s - it’s equipped with night vision and thermal imaging.

The LAV crew, a vehicle commander, driver and gunner, destroyed multiple pop-up targets with the Bushmaster but also got their hands on the 240G to take care of some smaller targets.

LAV’s pack a big punch of fire power but their role is usually not to engage - they are the forward eyes and ears for



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**The Royal Gurkha Rifles, 2nd Battalion, England display their knife, the cookery, fighting tactics to Marines from Co. D, 4th LAR during Exercise Allied Sabre '02.**



# travels north to rits and Canucks

Marines, said Allen.

The training didn't stop just yet - the challenge was set — the Royal Qurkha Rifles versus the Marines and the Canadian Western Land Force for the finale of the exercise. The British Qurkha's are a fighting force known for their stealth and close combat skills with their trademark knife, the cookery, a banana shaped blade.

But before the battle began, the Marines and Qurkha's spent a few hours' together sharing trade secrets.

The Qurkha's gave classes on trap-ping, hand to hand combat, knife fighting, tracking and showed their sniper capabilities to the Marines.

The Marines displayed the different capabilities of their "Pig" and also their form of hand-to-hand — the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Both sides applauded each other's skills and capped off the events by eating dinner together with some hot



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Appendi

**Marines fire 81mm mortars from their LAV at a live fire range during Exercise Allied Sabre '02.**

food complements of the Marines.

"It's always good to train with other nations," said Pvt. Rai Guman, riflemen, Co. B, 2nd RGR, England. "We learn from each other."

The small talk was over though - it was time for the two forces to play enemy for the night.

The Marines mission was to set up a defensive screen, RGR's was to infiltrate that screen to get to the Canadians.

The first contact was made with RGR early morning - the Marines noticed a squad of the RGR with thermal imaging. The Marines called for fire, the mortar section answered the



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Appendi

**Staff Sgt. Troy Allen, 1st platoon sergeant, Co. D, 4th LAR tries out a Royal Qurkha sniper rifle during Exercise Allied Sabre '02.**

call by taking out the squad of Qurkha's - but this didn't stop RGR - they had greater numbers, two companies verse the Leathernecks' one.

The sun's rays began to filter through the sky. It happed all at once - furious gunfire from both sides — the Quarka's were making their final charge to their objective, the Marines command vehicle.

RGR were ever so close when the hard charging Devil Dogs drove them off into a retreat by using all their firepower; calling for artillery, mortars, M-16 A2 service rifle, M240G — anything they could get their hands on to demolish the enemy.

"That's our warrior spirit - we fight the enemy until the last standing Marine," Allen said.

After hours of holding off the enemy and two weeks of training, the sweet taste of victory was left in their mouth.

"The Marines in the unit have pride and extreme talent in what they do," Busch said. "Their natural motivation and enthusiasm make them ready for

anything that comes their way."



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Appendi

**The view seen from the gunner of a 25mm Bushmaster Chain Gun standing in the turret of an LAV-25 as it drives through the Canadian landscape.**



# RECON SCOUTS TAKE ON ROYAL QURKHAS DURING ALLIED SABRE

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**WAINWRIGHT, Alberta** – The Marines made their way through the woods swiftly and quietly. They came to a halt when they heard a faint sound of enemy voices through the dense brush.

The enemy, the Royal Qurkha Rifles, unaware that fate made an unexpected turn for the worst, didn't realize a section of scouts from Company D, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Quantico, Va., was about to ruin their day.

The Marines, taking part in Exercise Allied Sabre Aug. 15-30, sprung out of the woods from all directions, turning into a vice that suffocated the enemy.

"We operate forward of enemy lines," said Lance Cpl. Timothy W. Donovan, scout team leader, 3rd platoon, Co. D, 4th LAR. "That's why scouts have the capabilities to call for fire from mortars, fixed wing, artillery - you name it,"

Engaging the enemy is usually not in their job description though; they're a recon element for the LAV's. Scouts patrol and provide security for LAV's when a dangerous area confronts them, Donovan said.

"We're just an extension of the vehicle - the forward eyes and ears," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Wright, scout platoon sergeant, Co. D, 4th LAR.

Each LAV has four combat loaded scouts. Their duties include, clearing obstacles, identifying targets, close

and far recon, Wright said.

With the help of their recon element, the LAV's rumbled their way to the much-needed bridge secured by the scouts. The LAV's stopped for a split second — just enough time for the scouts to load up — and they were on their way ripping through the hilly terrain.

The scouts completed their mission; they provided a safe haven for the LAV's and also took out some of the RGR, Wright said.

"We did awesome out there," Wright said, "We weren't originally going to attack the enemy, but we quickly changed our mission and executed the new one well."



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**Lance Cpl. Robert Harris, scout, 3rd Plt. Co. D., patrols through the Canadian terrain during Exercise Allied Sabre '02.**



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**Sgt. Matthew J. Nash, a scout section leader for Co. D, 4th LAR, makes his way across a bridge the Marines later secured.**



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**An LAV from Co. D, 4th LAR, makes its way across the secured bridge.**

# Amphibious Operations Training '02



## MAGTF-24 SPLASHES ASHORE IN CALIFORNIA

Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

**NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE, Coronado, Calif.** – Reserve Marines from all parts of the country, mustered here with Marine Air Ground Task Force 24, Aug. 11, for their two-week annual training to participate in the largest Marine reserve exercise in the country.

Powered by approximately 1,400 Marines and sailors, Amphibious Orientation Training 2002 conducted amphibious exercises on the beaches of Coronado and Camp Pendleton, Calif., implementing all elements of a MAGTF.

“AOT puts together the blue-green, Navy-Marine Corps team,” said Col. Mike Manske, chief of staff, 24<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment. “We take all the elements of a MAGTF (a command element, an air combat element, a ground combat element and a command service support element) and marry them up with Navy shipping to perform amphibious exercises.”

After an extensive two-month period of preparations following AOT 2001, a three-phase planning conference was conducted by Reserve Support Unit, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific, to plan out the manner in which the exercises would take place. An initial, main and final conference put together all arrangements for facilities to accommodate the personnel with housing and training sites.

“We are the team that keeps this thing glued together,” said Staff Sgt. David F. Carman, staff noncommissioned officer, RSU, EWTGPAC. “AOT is why we are here.”

“Round robin” exercises consisting of eight parts were conducted to refresh the Marines’ skills and to ensure their safety throughout the training. These exercises included rappelling, fast rope, swim qualification, obstacle course, combat rubber reconnaissance craft, amphibious assault vehicle operation, urban assault and helicopter operation exercises. All training was instituted in the final raid on Red Beach, Camp Pendleton.

Naval support played a key role in assisting to create a more real-world training scenario for the Marines as well as the sailors. Three amphibious-ready-group ships and two supporting ships, which include a submarine, were all part of the Navy team. An expeditionary strike group consisting of Marines from 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, Company C, 4<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, conducted stealth insertions along the coast of California from the USS Jefferson City and USS Helena, which is the first time submarines have been implemented in AOT.

“This operation has helped us get a leg up on deploying next year with the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit),” said Navy Capt. Kenneth Golden, commodore, Command Amphibious Squadron 1.

Another highlight of AOT 2002 was the training of a new antitank weapon system to replace the FGM-77 Dragon.

The M-98A1 Javelin is a man-portable weapon with medium-range, “fire-and-forget” capabilities and a selectable attack method from the top or direct fire. Training on the Javelin was conducted at Camp Pendleton as a sidebar to the “round robin” exercises.

The final assault combined all the elements of MAGTF-24 for an onslaught of amphibious operations. From the air, land and sea, Marines applied all methods of training for the attack on Red Beach. While providing knowledge and learning experience to the Marines, the assault poses as an educational experience for onlookers consisting of senior Navy and Marine Corps officers, congressional delegates, senate staffers and some members of the general public.

“It’s an outstanding exercise,” said Manske. “Amphibious warfare – this is the show.”

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# MAGTF - 24 DOES DURING AOT '02

Marines with A and B Batteries, 4th Low Altitude Air Defense, practice firing techniques with a tripod mounted .50 caliber machinegun.



Cpl. Richard J. Kulleck

Cpl. Chris D. Ford with Marine Air Control Squadron 24, holds onto the paddles while other Marines prepare themselves to upright their boat during Combat Rubber Reconnaissance Raft training.



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# IT ALL



Cpl. Richard J. Kulleck



Sgt. Kevin A. Brown

AOT '02, Marines of 2nd Bn. 24th Weapons Co., Anti-armor Platoon, Waukegan, Ill. were introduced to the M-velin Medium Anti Armor System.



Lance Cpl. Ryan Skaggs

Marines make their way up a stairwell, while running through a military operations on urbanized terrain (MOUT) training facility during AOT '02.

# 6th ESB travels to Canada to bridge the Columbia River

Army Staff Sgt. Sheila Tunney  
304th MPAD

## CASTLEGAR, British Columbia

— Mark Dowdy, a federal game control officer from Eugene, Ore., knows a lot about multitasking.

Mark's a busy man. On top of his full-time job, he's a part-time human resources manager for United Postal Service. His free moments are spent with his wife and kids. With all that, you'd think his life is full.

Not quite.

Dowdy's on the Columbia River here building Army floating bridges for his third job: he is a reserve Marine with B Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, Eugene.

Dowdy and about 40 of his comrades traveled here last week to train with Canadian, British and American Army reservists during Kootenay Castle 2002. The exercise began the second week of August and was designed to improve the interoperability between coalition forces during peace support operations.

"This is my first time training with

the 671st Engineer Co. It's similar to how we do it, but it's useful to see how the Army and Canadians do things a differently," Dowdy said.

The Army Reserve is also gaining valuable knowledge from the Marines.

"We tolerate each others differences, and learn from them," said U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Lewis Riggs. As bridge commander, Riggs is a water traffic controller. He's ultimately responsible for ensuring the boat drivers ferrying 22-foot, 5-ton sections (bays) of the floating bridge get to their proper places without incident. He also guides the engineers, like Dowdy, in hooking the bays together to form floating spans.

The U.S.-Canadian task force headquarters located at the 44th Field Engineer Squadron, a Canadian Army Reserve unit in nearby Trail, assigns the bridging missions for the exercise. Many times, the troops have little time to react. Some missions begin in the wee hours of the morning.

"They're keeping things very close to their chest and dropping it on us to see how we react," said U.S. Army Reserve Capt. Andy Bodiker, 671st commander.

While the bridge building goes on, Sgt. Jeremy Williams, also of Eugene, leads a crew of Marines around the site in a Zodiac raft. The Marines are providing command and control and safety watch. Marine combat swimmers will rescue anyone who falls



Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Sheila Tunney

**Marines from B Co., 6th ESB, were intergrated into the 671st Engineer Co. bridge platoons to build this floating bridge on the Columbia River.**

from the boats.

Williams seems to understand well the one constant in military training: change, and the one virtue in dealing with it: flexibility.

"We're ready for anything that comes up," Williams said.

The full-time, double-major student said he loves his job as a reserve Marine.

"It provides a perfect balance with my schedule," he said. Williams is planning to apply for a police department position and said he's carrying on the family tradition of military service.

"I'm the first in my family to join the Marines, my father was in the Army."

Williams' raft mate, Lance Cpl. Ken Burmeister, of Eugene, said he's happy to be here and for the opportunity to be a Marine.

"Serving with the Marines is hard, and it takes a big chunk out of my life," he said. "But when I look back, I'll know I've made something with my life."



Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Sheila Tunney

**Sgt. Mark Dowdy of Eugene, Ore., is in Trail, British Columbia, for his annual training, trading knowledge and improving his skills with U.S. Army active and reserve forces, as well as Canadian and British forces.**

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# HMM-774 helps USFS in counterdrug effort

Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

**ASHEVILLE, N.C.** – Illegal drugs are a major problem facing America today and a continual battle for law enforcement agencies. Recently, with the help of U.S. Marines and their helicopters, the United States Forest Service (USFS) was able to scan more than 950,000 acres in North Carolina for illegally cultivated marijuana.

Twenty-three members of HMM-774, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing, Norfolk, Va., spent 10 days, here, providing the aerial view of the state park land that would have otherwise gone without reconnaissance. The Marines were supporting Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6), which coordinates Department of Defense support to domestic law enforcement agencies' counterdrug efforts.

The unit provided three CH-46 helicopters and crews to fly the law enforcement agents over the thick vegetation of the Appalachian Mountain Range.

"Due to the fact that there is so much

land and because it is roadless mountain terrain, we would never be able to cover this amount of land without the help of these Marines," said Bob Schneider, law enforcement officer, USFS.

Together, the Marines and USFS agents flew two missions a day with each helicopter. The first mission started in the middle morning while the second took off early afternoon.

According to Schneider, each mission usually lasted between two and two and a half hours because it is very fatiguing on the spotters eyes to stay focused on the ground vegetation.

Many times, the USFS receives tips from citizens or other agencies of possible illegal narcotic activity or marijuana cultivation in the forest.

The support provided by the Marines is a great benefit, as the USFS doesn't have the manpower to follow up on every call, added Schneider.

All of the Marines participating in JTF-6 fulfilled their annual training during Combined Arms Exercise this summer and volunteered to take part in this training.

"This is great training for the Marines," said Staff Sgt. Michael W. Wertepny, information systems coordinator, MAG-42, Det. B. "The aircraft handle much differently over the high altitudes of the mountains than they do over the flat lands we usually train over."

The Forest Service was very happy



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**Maj.Gen. Larry S. Taylor, deputy commander, Marine Forces Reserve, observes as USFS law enforcement agents look for illegally harvested marijuana.**

with the outcome, said Schnieder.

For the Marines, meeting the expectations of the USFS as well as getting good training made the deployment a success.

"The Marines performed superbly," said Maj. Andrew T. Ryan, mission commander, MAG-42, Det. B. "They all put in long hours, over 95 flight hours, and will continue to train to be prepared to augment the active duty contingent."

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**Right and left: Marines from H M M - 7 7 4 , Norfolk, Va., fly their CH-46 helicopters above the Appalachian Mountain range looking for illegally harvested marijuana. Photos by Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine**





# Retired Marine awarded the Navy Marine Corps Medal for heroic '96 rescue

Master Gunnery Sgt. Robert W. Appleton

MWSS-471, PWST

## SELFREDGE ANGB, Mich. –

Retired Master Sergeant Kenneth D. Kreft was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on July 20 in a ceremony at Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, Detachment B, in Mount Clemens, Mich., for his courageous rescue of a small aircraft pilot in Alaska in 1996.

While participating in Operation Arctic Care 96 in Kotzebue, Alaska, Kreft observed a Cessna crash on the ice, about a mile offshore. Leading a small group of Marines, according to his citation, "...he rushed to the crash site. Even though the potential for an explosion and fire was imminent, Master Sergeant Kreft, with complete disregard for his own safety... unhesitatingly moved to the wreckage where the pilot was trapped in an inverted position." He immediately took charge of the situation, starting first-aid to stop the profuse bleeding and directing one Marine to run back to shore to get transportation for the injured man. Realizing that the man's condition was perilous, he began working feverishly to extricate the pilot as quickly as possible. Although the pilot was pinned in his seat, Kreft,

after extraordinary effort, was able to release him and save his life.

The award was presented to Kreft by his former commanding officer, Col. John Church, who retired in 1991.

"It was an honor to come back to take care of such a deserving Marine," said Church.

The ceremony took place in front of a platoon comprised of many Marines who had served with Kreft, as well as a few who had served with Church. Afterward, both retirees spoke to the Marines about the many positive aspects of their Marine Corps careers and urged the current Marines to stay with it.

"When I compare my life in the Marine Corps with the lives of the civilians I now work with, I know the travel



MGySgt. Robert W. Appleton

Retired Col. John Church pins the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on retired Master Sgt. Kenneth D. Kreft as Lt. Col. Bill Black, commanding officer MWSS-471, Det. A, looks on.

and experiences I have had cannot be matched on the outside," said Kreft.

Church spoke of the positive impact the Marine Corps had on him. He traced his life from troubled youth to Marine colonel commanding Marine Wing Support Group 47. Along the way he enlisted in the Marine Corps, pursued a college degree, received an Officer's commission, completed flight school, earned advanced degrees, and after retirement, had a career as an educator. None of his many accomplishments would have been possible without the discipline and opportunities provided by the Marine Corps, he said.



## Pull pin....Prepare to throw....Throw

MAG-46 Marines go through the sequence of tossing practice grenades, prior to throwing the live version, at Camp Pendleton, as part of their annual training in July.

# Anacostia hosts Young Marines drill competition

Maj. Mary McDonald  
Maj. Demetrius Bellizaire

PWST, Anacostia

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Young Marines from across the country put their best feet forward in a competition held here May 25.

The Marine District Washington Young Marines Battalion hosted the Second Annual National Young Marine Drill Competition at the Navy-Marine Reserve Training Center at Naval District Washington, Anacostia Annex.

Marines from Supply Detachment A and Rations Company, 4th Supply Battalion; Inspector-Instructor Staff, and PWST Anacostia along with Marine Barracks 8th & I and Montford Point Marines provided logistical and administrative support.

“It was a total team effort in support of our Young Marines,” said Brig. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson Jr., commanding general, 4th Force Service Support Group.

A crowd of nearly 1,000 parents, family members, friends and supporters of the Young Marines program attended the event. Competition participants included units from Illinois, Florida, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Wilson provided opening remarks for the event and awarded trophies at its conclusion. He presented trophies in the categories of trick drill, color guard, and standard drill. The top three performing platoon sergeants also earned trophies.

As the crowd cheered, jumped and otherwise demonstrated their support, Young Marines winners left the event walking taller and prouder than they marched in.

The big winner was a home team. The 8th and I Young Marines Unit, led by reserve Sgt. Kelvin Paulk, walked away with the most trophies.

“I have always believed in the Young Marine program, it is a fabulous organization which teaches kids the value of hard work, discipline, and esprit de corps,” said Mrs. Mary Wilson, Brig Gen. Wilson’s wife and Key Volunteer Coordinator for 4th FSSG.

Retired Lt. Col. Mike Kressler, the national executive director of the Young Marines, thanked all who participated and attended.

The day’s events included a luncheon held by the Montford Point Marines on behalf of B. Gen. Wilson and the Young Marines as well as a lecture on the Korean War by Col. Richard Reed, chief of staff for 4th FSSG.



# Phoenix PWST volunteers to help wildfire victims

Maj. John S. Renouard  
PWST, Bulk Fuel Co., 6th ESB



Salvation Army Courtesy Photo

**Sgt. David P. Weeks and Cpl. Michelle L. Doherty, both members of the Phoenix Peacetime Wartime Support Team, help other volunteers sort through donations for Arizona wildfire victims.**

**PHOENIX, Ariz.** — In the midst of the worst wild fire in Arizona’s history, the Phoenix Peacetime Wartime Support Team volunteered their services to assist with the Salvation Army’s disaster relief effort. The Rodeo-Chediski fire consumed more 468,638 acres and destroyed more than 426 structures.

Whole towns had to be evacuated with over 30,000 people leaving their homes and relocating to displacement centers all over the state. Some lost their homes and possessions, and had to depend on charity for their daily existence.

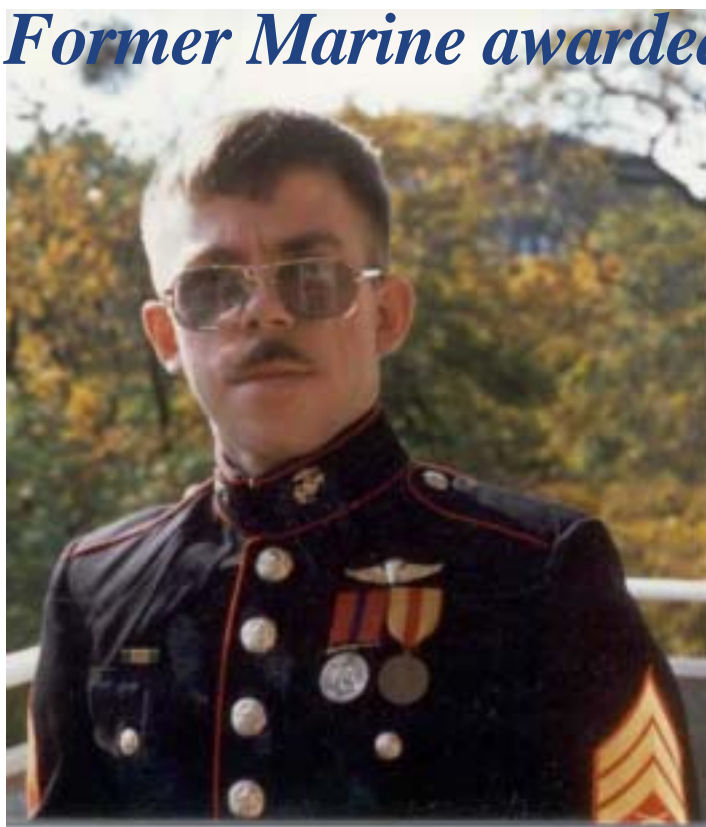
During their annual training in July, three PWST members, Maj. John S. Renouard, Sgt. David P. Weeks and Cpl. Michelle L Doherty, worked two days in over 110 degree heat, sorting and packing over 15 pallets of donated consumables goods ranging from cases of Gatorade to baby food.

The work was demanding, but there was a sense of satisfaction knowing that our efforts played a significant role in assisting the victims of this natural disaster, said Renouard.





# Former Marine awarded Combat Action Ribbon 23 years after defending U.S. Embassy in Iran



Sgt. Arthur DesLauriers

**Former Marine Sgt. Henry Lojkuc in 1979.**

**Sgt. Arthur DesLauriers**

Marine Forces Reserve

**WETHERSFIELD, Conn.** — Upon his recent return home from Qatar, Henry Lojkuc was surprised to have received a letter from the Marine Corps Military Awards Branch. It seems some 23 years later, the former Marine sergeant was awarded the Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon for his heroic actions in defense of the U.S.

Embassy in Tehran. A second letter awarded him the Marine Security Guard Ribbon. The awards brought back the memories.

*The sun bears down on the Middle Eastern desert with a sultry fire fueled by thousands of Middle Eastern men and women whose hearts burn with Anti-American sentiments. With the winter temperature averaging in the 70s the heat felt by the Marine Security Detachment standing watch at the United States Embassy is about to explode like a fireball from hell.*

The year is not 2002 and we are not in Kabul, Afghanistan, but in Tehran, Iran in the spring of 1979. As anarchy was becoming the norm in the streets of Tehran, the gathering crowd began to swelter with a hate that shrouded the city. Chants of “Yankee we’ve come to do you in”

could be heard as hundreds of leftist guerrillas stormed the embassy grounds led by the pro Moscow Fedayeen Kalq forces. The Fedayeen Kalq - known as the people’s self-sacrifice guerrillas - were founded in the latter part of the 1960’s and were alleged to have ties to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

From the end of December 1978 until February 14, 1979, American citizens were on constant alert as revolution spilled across Iran. Marital Law was in place as a political and religious conflict was taking place between the Shah elect Prime Minster Bahktiar and the exiled religious leader Ayatollah Rulloah Khomeini.

“We had approximately 50 to 60 members of the Iranian Army assigned to assist us with the perimeter security of the embassy. With political and religious pressure mounting, the Iranian Army deserted their post leaving just 19 Marines defending the embassy against a crowd of hundreds during the gun battle that lasted about three and a half hours,” recalled Lojkuc who was a corporal at the time.

Lojkuc joked that the Iranian Army did more sleeping on post than providing perimeter security anyhow. Even though the Marine Security Detachment was armed, outfitted in full battle gear, well trained and fighting an uncoordinated adversary, the sheer numbers of the militant guerrilla force were overwhelming.

“The number of weapons being used created a fire-power that far outweighed our ability to defend the embassy,” said Lojkuc. “At that point all we could do was buy some time with our own safety and well being so the 100 or so United States citizens (American staffers

and diplomats) could destroy classified material and equipment as well as retreat to a secure area within the embassy.”

“We fired our shotguns and 38s till we ran out of ammo. Upon leaving the embassy grounds and moving into the chancery we gutted the three lower floors with tear gas. Within an hour or so the leftist forces had made their way to the 3rd floor of the chancery and were pelting the door with automatic weapons fire. It was at this time we were ordered by Ambassador Sullivan to drop our weapons and

“Duty, honor and courage were  
then, and are today, values to live  
and die by.”

**Sgt. Henry Lojkuc**



to surrender.”

Lojkuc can still remember the word “Pashemar” which means surrender in Farsi. Being ordered to surrender his post was a feeling he was never prepared for.

“Having the butt end of a Kalashnikov jammed into my ribs was not even close to the feeling of pain and despair of being ordered to abandoned and surrender my post” said Lojkuc.

A few hours into the siege forces loyal to the Ayatollah Khomeini retook the embassy and freed the hostages.

Lojkuc is noted for one other remarkable act of courage during the February siege. In the middle of the siege he managed to slip away from his captors and secure the three remaining American flags as well as the Marine Corps colors. Lojkuc said after watching the militants desecrate other American flags he made his way through the tear-gassed areas, across the compound undetected, and secured the remaining flags. Lojkuc recalls that amid the parading of the Marines in front of reporters and other spectators he had the flags on his person.

He still has one of the three flags. Another was returned to embassy personnel for delivery to the State Department. Lojkuc gave the third to the Marine Club of Hartford, Conn., at the annual Gideon Welles Awards Dinner in May

1979 which honored him as guest speaker.

After the siege State Department officials sent Lojkuc and his fellow Marines to the U.S. for a debriefing. The Marines were then given the choice of returning the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) or returning to embassy duty. Lojkuc opted to remain on embassy duty and was assigned to Vienna, Austria.

The attack on the American Embassy in February 1979 was a precursor to a siege by forces loyal to Ayatollah Khomeini. The second siege lasted from November 1979 to January 1981, a period of over 14 months.

“It was one of the most memorable St. Valentine Days I have ever had. With all that took place I would not have changed places with any other Marine,” said Lojkuc. “Duty, Honor and Courage were then, and are today values live and die by.”

Lojkuc went on to complete his enlistment and then entered the Marine Corps Reserve where he obtained the rank of sergeant. After a 15-year break in service, Lojkuc joined the Air Force Reserve and is presently serving as a technical sergeant. He recently returned from the Al Udeid Airbase in Qatar where he and members of his reserve unit were activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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## Master Sgt. awarded two Bronze Stars for work in Afghanistan

Gunnery Sgt. Charles Portman

U.S. Central Command

**MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** — Master Sgt. John Nichols III, of Detroit, Mich., was awarded two Bronze Star Medals, one with the combat “V” device, during his four-month deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, where he served as the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of interrogators for Task Force Bowie. The first medal was for gallantry in action during Operation Anaconda when he took charge of the U.S. Army unit he was attached to after its platoon commander became incapacitated. The second was for supervising and directing Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine interrogators at an interrogation facility that the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Meyers, cited as the most capable in the theater.

“I wanted to deploy forward, I didn’t just want to ‘get activated’,” said Nichols, who was called to active duty from the IRR in Nov. 2001 to support USCENTCOM. “Because of the high-value detainees we were receiving, we were able to obtain information that really saved some American lives and lead to some critical, time sensitive special ops missions.”

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Courtesy U.S. Army

**U.S. Central Command Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Michael P. DeLong, presents a Bronze Star Medal to reserve Master Sgt. John Nichols III, in July 2002, after Nichols returned from Afghanistan.**

**Nichols has been awarded two Bronze Star Medals for his service in Operation Enduring Freedom.**

# RESERVE GENERAL HELPS DEVELOP "IDEAL FIELD KNIFE"

Sgt. Amy L. Forsythe

1 MACE, Public Affairs

## CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. —

Marines who spend most of their time in the field would probably agree that a good knife is the tool of choice and many can tell you why a field knife does or doesn't work well. But can you imagine having your name stamped on the blade as a tribute to your legendary outdoorsman expertise and knowledge?

The "Boddington Field Knife", now available from the Anza Knife Company of Santee, Calif., is named for reserve Brig. Gen. Craig T. Boddington.

Boddington, who is the commanding general of the I Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element, here, collaborated with renowned master craftsman Charlie Davis from Anza to develop a fixed-blade knife Marines and outdoor enthusiasts alike can use in the field.

A mutual friend brought the two men together and helped with the design and development.

"My friend and fellow Marine, Lt. Col. Al Burghard of I MACE, and I were looking for an ideal 'field' knife, not a fighting knife, but a sturdy utilitarian design with a

satile ver-blade shape and a size that would be useful, but not intimidating," said Boddington, who lives in Paseo Robles, Calif.

Anza didn't think adding Boddington's name would make a much of a difference in selling the no-nonsense cutting tool, said Davis during a phone interview.

"I didn't realize just how well known Craig is throughout the coun-

try. We did a trade show in Colorado and when people noticed the knife with Boddington's name on it, they were very impressed," said Davis. "In my mind this is the biggest thing that has ever happened to our company and we're very grateful for the partnership."

Boddington had been using and admiring the customized work of the Anza Knife Company for a couple of years now and has seen his share of knife styles and varieties throughout many years.

With a passion for the outdoors and telling others about it, Boddington has found a way to mix journalism with his adventurous way of life. He has published 13 books and more than 2000 magazine articles related to

sporting firearms, hunting and wildlife conservation. He was the editor of the Los Angeles-based Petersen's Hunting magazine and is currently a senior field editor for Hunting and Guns & Ammo magazines.

The Anza Knife Company has been in business since 1980 and prides itself on its custom craftsmanship of each and every knife. Every knife is made from high-carbon steel and handcrafted in a 48-step process.

The Boddington model features a 4 1/4-inch blade that can be a subdued blued or bright-polished version. The back of the blade is thicker than most others, nearly one-quarter inch and stamped on the back with "Boddington," for authenticity.

Additionally, if current, retired or former Marines purchase the knife, Anza will include "U.S.M.C." after



Cpl. Anthony Blanco

**Reserve Brig. Gen. Craig Boddington stands with master craftsman Charlie Davis in the Anza Knife Factory in Santee, Calif., where the "Boddington Field Knife" is made.**

Boddington's name to ensure only those who've served bare the special inscription, Davis said. The proceeds from the knife sales will go to a charity of Boddington's choice: The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation.

They've sold a few hundred so far and expect sales to increase throughout the year. The knife retails for \$150 and can be purchased on line at [www.anzaknives.com](http://www.anzaknives.com). The knife was recently picked up for retail in the very popular Cabela's Mail Order Catalogue, Davis said ecstatically.

Boddington, who is extremely humbled by this gesture, hopes Marines will buy the knife, not only for its effective use, but to contribute to a good and worthy cause.

Currently, Boddington is on active duty as the commanding general of a Combined Joint Task Force operating in Kuwait and is expected back at the end of September.

**The "Boddington Field Knife" features a 4-1/4 inch fixed blade. Reserve Brig. Gen. Craig Boddington, a legendary outdoorsman, helped to design the knife. Photo by Cpl. Anthony Blanco.**





Lt Col R. Rockett

A member of the Karns (Tenn.) Volunteer Fire Department ignites the flag retirement pyre.

## 4th CEB helps retire unserviceable flags

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. M. J. Preast  
I&I, Co. D, 4th CEB

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** — The observance of Flag Day, June 14, here, this year included a flag retirement ceremony that was both motivating and educational for the Marines of Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion.

Following the events of September 11th last year, Americans demonstrated a marked increase patriotism measured by the ubiquitous display of American flags. In fact, the purchase of American flags peaked at a volume not seen since the World War II era. Along with the surge, flag etiquette including the proper display and procedures for the disposal of unserviceable flags has become a concern. While the rush on stores to purchase flags was phenomenal, few thought about the complete life of the flag, and how to dispose of it properly when it becomes unserviceable.

Enter Lt. Col. Rodney Rockett, a reserve officer who works for the

Knox County Solid Waste Department. As part of a public service, Rockett initiated a flag collection program for the citizens of Knox County to drop off their unserviceable flags at a central location for proper retirement.

According to Public Law 94-344, known as the Flag Code: *The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.* Many Americans are shocked to learn that burning is the approved method of destroying unserviceable flags. In fact, improper flag burning is illegal. The key to retiring a flag properly is in the manner of the burning.

Over the years a tradition developed for a flag to be ceremoniously retired by cutting it into its individual parts and burning each part. As each stripe is retired, the

name of the original colony it represents, along with the year of its founding, is announced. The blue field with the stars is traditionally dedicated to something appropriate.

With well over 260 flags to retire, it was physically impossible to do this for each flag. Instead, Rockett arranged for a site at the Knox County recycling center where a large pyre, accommodating all of the flags at once, could be built. After the flags were placed on the pyre, one flag was

ceremoniously retired in the

prescribed manner, and its parts placed upon the top. The

field of this flag was dedicated to all of the victims of the September 11th attacks. The pyre was then ignited by a representative of the Karns Volunteer fire department who also ensure that it was managed properly.

“The ceremony was done in a manner which glorified our Nation’s colors as well as the victims of September 11,” said Lance Cpl. Russ Rhymer, a reserve Marine who participated in the ceremony.

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Lt. Col. R. Rockett

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. M. J. Preast, Inspector-Instructor first sergeant, Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, explains the flag retirement ceremony procedure.

# Cleveland Marines get visit from Corps' top leaders

Sgt. Jeffrey R. Womack

PWST, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines

**BROOK PARK, Ohio —**

Cleveland and Akron Marines had the rare pleasure of hosting both the highest-ranking Marine officer and top enlisted Marine at the Brook Park Reserve Center recently.

General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, visited 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Aug. 26 to meet Cleveland's reserve and active duty Marines and hear what they think needs to be changed within the Corps.

"We aren't taking time out of our schedule to visit you. You are our schedule," Jones said. "You are the Marine Corps and we want to know what's on the minds of Marines whether you're active duty or reserve."

The two Marines walked through every department of the center, meeting each individual Marine – regardless of rank – and talked with them about issues that need to be addressed about the Marine Corps as a whole.

"The Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps both showed genuine interest in our issues," Cpl. Michael A. Ross, Service Record Book chief, Cleveland, Ohio, native, and recipient of the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal presented by Jones, said. "The sergeant major got right on the cell phone when someone mentioned an issue that he knew he could fix immediately. That was motivating because people usually say, 'we'll get back to you on it,' but they jumped right into our problems."

One issue discussed was the Marine for Life program, designed to keep Marines in contact with the Corps after their tour of duty.



Sgt. Jeffrey R. Womack

**The Commandant and Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps answer questions from Marines of 3/25 during the question and answer period of their visit.**



Sgt. Jeffrey R. Womack

**Lt. Col. John C. Gauthier and Lt. Col. Tony Osterman give the CMC a brief tour of a new mobile communications shelter being constructed by the Marines of 3/25.**

"In the past, when a Marine leaves active duty, the Marine would usually only receive a handshake and a good luck on their way to the main gate," Jones said. "The phrase 'once a Marine, always a Marine' used to be just an implied slogan. That's going to change. We've been working on a web site that will help Marines transition into the civilian world by helping them locate a job in the area they will be moving to."

Jones also wants to change the way prior service Marines are treated when they return to serve their country.

"We're working on an issue right now to keep Marines who are returning after a long time at the rank they left with," Jones said. "You earned that rank and we want you to keep it."

Additionally, McMichael discussed the rebuilding of base housing for Marines.

"Base housing right now needs a lot of work," McMichael said. "We are fixing that problem as we speak. Every Marine family on base housing will have brand new homes within a few years."

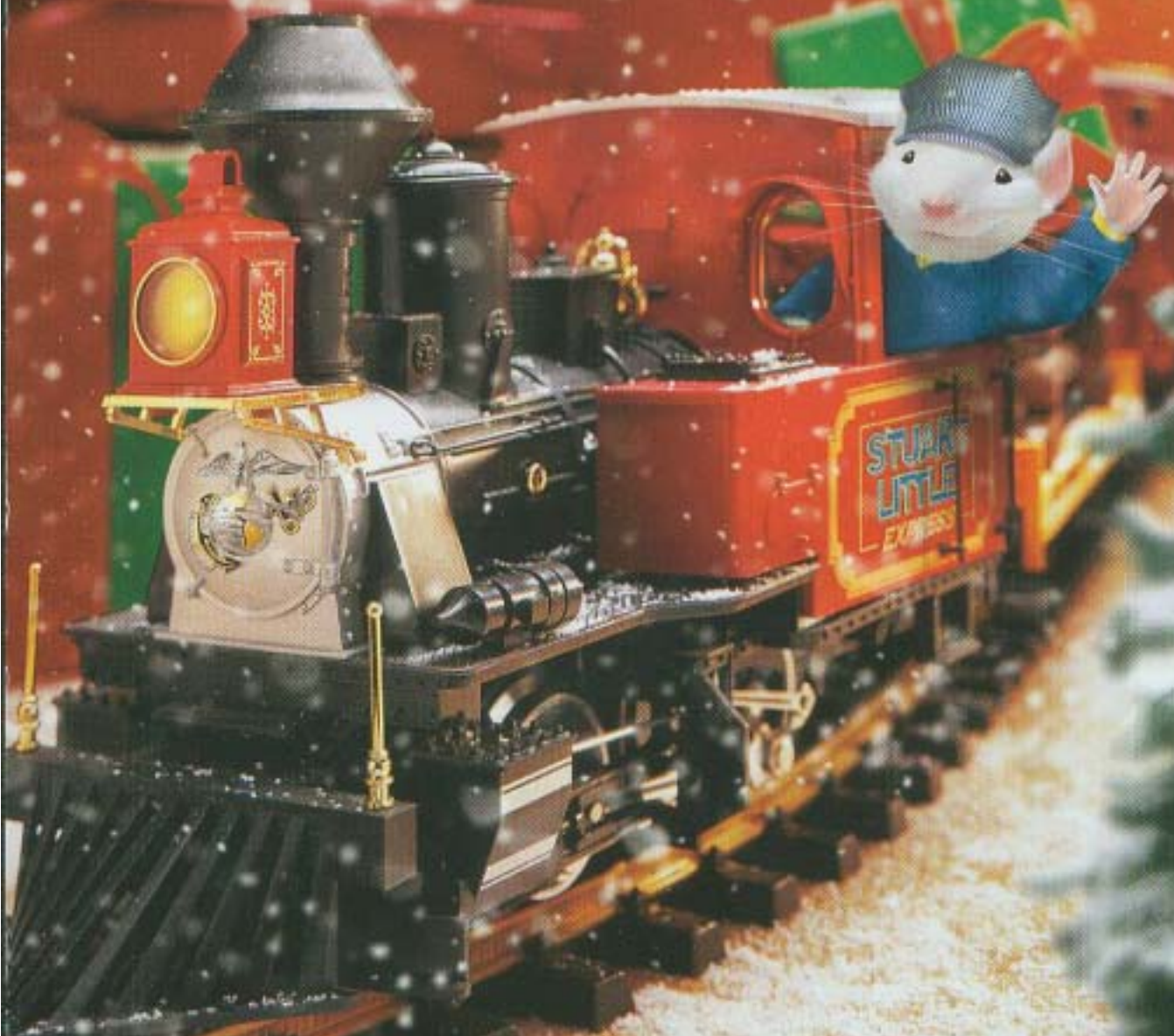
The Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps' visit not only informed Marines of the direction the Corps is going, it additionally boosted morale.

"It was pretty motivating that they took time out of their busy schedule to talk to us," said Sgt. Dennis R. Lisbon, orders chief and Lakeland, Fla., native. "The sergeant major was really down to earth. After the discussion he talked with a few of us about basketball. Everyone is still talking about their visit."

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# Toys for Tots<sup>SM</sup>



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best ever!!



